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INSIDE



Crime Stoppers

Acting governor Diego T. Benavente proclaimed January 2004 as NMI Crime Stoppers Month, as he urged the community to participate in various events during the whole month of January to help reduce crimes in the Northern Marianas.

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Damage Control

U.S. agriculture officials flew to Japan on Sunday to address concerns in the world's largest market for American beef about the discovery of the first case of mad cow disease in the United States.

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Waning Hopes

Hopes of finding more earthquake survivors in Iran's ancient city of Bam faded Sunday as the sharp, foul smell of death permeated the pulverized rubble where mud-brick houses became instant tombs for more than 20,000 people.

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Agencies on mad cow alert

DPH: No evidence of mad cow-infected meat in CNMI

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

There is no evidence suggesting that mad cow-infected meat from Guam or the mainland U.S. has entered the Northern Marianas, the Department of Public Health advised yesterday.

This, even as the department said in an advisory that all concerned agencies are now working closely to prevent the entry of potentially infected meat into the Commonwealth.

DPH spokesperson John P. Douglas said representatives from these agencies met yesterday to discuss prevention strategies.

Tainted meat went to Guam, 8 states

By EMILY GERSEMA
AP WRITER

Meat from a Holstein sick with mad cow disease has now reached retail markets in eight states and one territory, but still poses no health risk, Agriculture Department officials said Sunday.

Dr. Kenneth Petersen, an Agriculture Department veterinarian,

said investigators have determined that some of the meat from the diseased dairy cow slaughtered Dec. 9 in Washington state went to Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana and Guam. Earlier, officials had said most of the meat went to Washington and Oregon, with lesser amounts to California and Nevada, for distribution to consumers.

"The recalled meat represents

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These agencies include the Division of Customs, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Quarantine, Bureau of

Environmental Health, the Commonwealth Veterinary Office, and the DPH.

See AGENCIES on Page 8

Palau Air seeks \$500K investment from CNMI

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Newly established Palau Micronesia Air is asking for some \$500,000 in investment contribution from the CNMI government in its effort to provide air services throughout the



Benavente

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AN NYEONG HASEYO

Dandan Elementary School officials and students gather with visiting students and teachers from South Korea's Kids Language Club who are on Saipan for a two-day language and cultural exchange program. The students and their teachers are undergoing classroom learning skills activities, language and arts, local crafts and arts, and sports interaction program to help them learn more about the local culture and tradition.

EDITH G. ALEJANDRO

It's hustle time for January '04 inauguration of 14th Legislature

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Preparations are now underway for the Jan. 12th inauguration of the 14th Legislature, with the legislative building undergoing a thorough paint job inside

and out and the souvenir program being finalized for printing.

Legislative Bureau director Walter Macaranas said the entire process is budgeted at a little over \$8,000.

"The repainting of the exterior and interior of the building is now being done.

We are also doing renovations to dilapidated storage overhangs. One window on the Senate side is also being replaced as it is now warping and starting to pop out of its frames. That's basically it—refining the building," said Macaranas.

The exterior and interior repainting

is being handled by Custom Construction and Marfran Enterprises.

The exterior job involves repainting the outside of the building, the parking stalls, the flagpole, the building sign, the curbs, and the disability parking space.

See ITS HUSTLE on Page 8

Local

hamilton

Congressman’s son seriously injured in Christmas Day fray

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Police arrested three men for their alleged involvement in a fight that seriously injured Rep. Oscar Babauta’s son on Christmas Day.

Oscar Babauta Jr. had to be transferred from the Commonwealth Health Center to a Guam facility. Besides finding a jagged laceration above the younger Babauta’s left eye, CHC’s Dr. Saccomanna said the injury affected the victim’s left eye lobe, which had possibly leaked fluid.

Superior Court judge Juan T. Lizama yesterday imposed a \$50,000-bail on 21-year-old Tesfour Michael, who allegedly hit the victim’s face with a glass. Michael is facing charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault and battery.

After the Christmas incident, police also nabbed TN Onopwi and Anderson C. Ruben. Witnesses interviewed by police gave varying statements about the incident, based on an affidavit submitted to the court by detective David A.M. Hosono.

The incident happened near the Kappon apartment in Chalan Kanoa Thursday night. The victim told police that he was driving home after attending a party at his grandmother’s house when two men stopped him on the road.

Upon alighting from his vehicle, the two allegedly beat him up. “Junior [victim] also stated that they later threw him an unopened can of beer

which caused the injury to his eye,” Hosono added.

Michael, meanwhile, told investigators that he and Ruben were drinking liquor outside his mother’s house when the young Babauta’s pickup truck passed by. At the same time, his friend Onopwi crossed the road ahead of the pickup truck, almost hitting him.

The congressman’s son alighted from his vehicle and shouted at Onopwi for blocking the road, Michael told police. Onopwi allegedly kept walking away, ignoring Babauta Jr.

Hosono, quoting Michael, said Babauta Jr. challenged the defendant to a fight. Instead of giving in, Michael allegedly apologized and even greeted Babauta Jr. “Merry Christmas!”

When a moped-riding companion of Babauta Jr. arrived, the congressman’s son allegedly approached Michael, whose mother advised him to move away. Babauta Jr. allegedly followed him. “A lot more people keep coming and walking toward them that made them ran,” said Hosono, quoting Michael.

Michael reportedly said he threw a glass of liquor at Babauta Jr. because the latter got so close to him. He said he did not look back as he continued to run.

The congressman had to respond to the scene after learning that his son was in trouble. Police nabbed Michael and Onopwi after the two fled aboard another person’s car. Lawmen also collared the third suspect, not far from where the incident happened.

Hotel occupancy rate for ‘03 highest in 5 years but room rates remain low

Average hotel room occupancy on Saipan reached 64.30 percent from January to November this year—the highest since 1998 when the annual average rate was 58.05 percent—but room rates remain low, according to the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands.

HANMI President Ron Sablan is not at all too happy about it.

“The average room rate should be more or less higher than the occupancy rate,” he said.

Sablan said an average room rate that is higher than the occupancy rate provides a “comfort zone” for hotel owners. He explained that a low average room rate and a high occupancy rate mean hotel owners are almost giving their rooms up for free.

Sablan cited hotel occupancy and room rate statistics from 1992 to 1998, which showed that there were more rooms being taken at a room rate of over \$100.

In 1992, occupancy rate averaged at 78.10 percent; room rate was \$112.82. In 1993, occupancy rate was 73.49 percent; room rate was \$114.84. In 1994, occupancy rate was 77.03 percent; room rate was \$109.48. In 1995, average occupancy rate was 82.62 percent; room rate was at an average of \$116.77.

In 1996, hotel occupancy was 85.57 percent; room rate was \$127.73. In 1997, average occupancy rate was 81.35 percent; room rate was \$136.06. In 1998, room occupancy was 58.05 percent; room rate was \$117.23

Sablan said a high occupancy rate coupled with a high occupancy rate could still be achieved “but not at the level of the late 1980s and early 1990s.”

Annual average room occupancy rate in 1999 was 60.44 percent; the average rate in 2000 was 61.23 percent. In 1999, a hotel room cost an



Sablan

average of \$99; this went down to \$88 in 2000 and further down to \$81.46 in 2002.

For the first 11 months of 2003, the average room rate was \$81.31

The average room occupancy rates and average cost per room were based on reports from all 15 big Saipan hotels.

The decline in the 1998 hotel occupancy was attributed to that year’s Asian crisis which caused currencies in the region to

tumble against the dollar, and which led tourists to prefer Asian destinations instead because more can be had for less dollars compared to the CNMI.

So far since the 1998 slump, the highest annual average room occupancy rate was recorded last year at 63.36 percent. The figure, however was over 9 percent lower than the lowest annual rate before the 1998 crisis, which was recorded at 73.49 percent in 1993.

capricciosa

Note: With mug of Ron Sablan

jollibee

hope, strength
and joy!

*"My wish is to become
a firefighter!"*

Saipan Tribune

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cars

Korean students on Saipan for exchange program



EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
Visiting grade school students from South Korea gather for a photo with their Dandan Elementary School counterparts during the first of a two-day cultural exchange program.

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Dandan Elementary School is hosting a two-day exchange program for some 35 Korean grade school students and 10 teachers for the third annual DES-Kids Language Club student ex-change and cultural program.

DES principal Jonas Barcinas said the students and their teachers are undergoing classroom learning skills activities, language and arts, local crafts and arts, and sports interaction program to help them learn more about the local culture and tradition.

The student exchange and cultural program, which is now on its third year, started yesterday and ends today.

Students under the Daegu, Korea-based Kids Language Club have been visiting Saipan to learn how to interact in the English language.

“This is the third time and we are so happy to have them. We are doing this to promote the English language and the kids can learn how to interact effectively using the language,” said Barcinas.

The group, which is headed by Sa Heun Mah and Ki Ho Sung, will depart Saipan tomorrow morning.

The delegation was divided

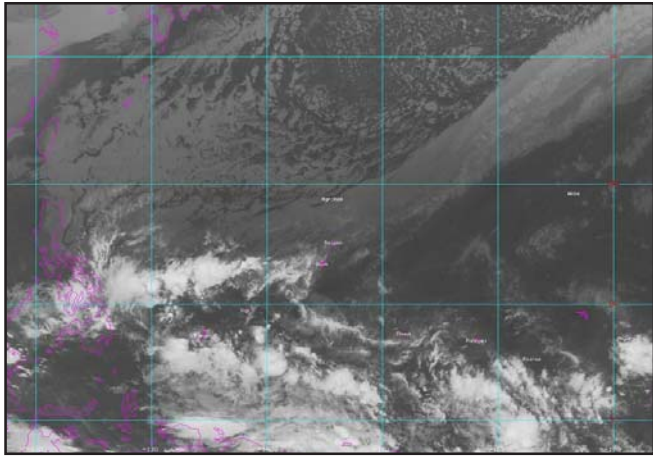
into different groups from first grade to sixth grade as they undergo actual classroom learning skills. DES My Wave Club members and Student Council officials are spearheading the student-cultural exchange program.

According to Barcinas, who recently arrived from Korea for negotiations with three schools for the cultural and student exchange program next year, the Korean government and school administrators are keen in sending students to Saipan to learn the English language.

In January 2004, a group of 200 students and teachers will be arriving on Saipan for a three-day student and cultural exchange program. Barcinas is also negotiating with four other elementary schools on Saipan to help them accommodate the arriving Korean students on Jan. 14, 2004.

“They are excited about the program and the Korean teachers have been asking questions regarding this. A lot of parents want their kids to be part of the program and learn the English language. We are also discussing the Home Stay Program with the family to give the Korean students a chance to stay in a local family and go to school regularly for at least two weeks,” the DES principal added.

WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME:1:00 A.M. DECEMBER 29, 2003
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends from near 25n165e to near 20n155e then continues as a shear line to near 11n130e. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along the leading edge of the boundary within 80 miles either side of a line from near 14n143e to near 12n130e. Extensive low clouds are extending up to 400 miles northwest of the shear line. A monsoon trough extends from near 6n130e to near 5n140e and ends at equator near 162e. Low-level convergence along and south of the trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over portions of republic of Palau...Yap...Chuuk and Pohnpei states between the equator and 9n from 132e to 147e...and between the equator and 5n from 147e to 163e. Further east...trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Kosrae and southern half of the Marshall Islands between 1n and 8n from 163e to 180.

SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Partly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: East at 10 mph. Highs near 84.

GUAM AND ROTA
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 mph. Highs near 86.

PALAU
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

YAP AND ULITHI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

KOSRAE
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
Auckland	Rain	66F (19C)	51F (11C)
Beijing	Sunny	37F (3C)	23F (-5C)
Hong Kong	Sunny	70F (21C)	62F (17C)
Honolulu	Cloudy	82F (28C)	74F (23C)
London, England	Partly Cloudy	37F (3C)	25F (-4C)
Los Angeles	Rain	54F (12C)	44F (7C)
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	66F (19C)
Melbourne	Sunny	89F (32C)	70F (21C)
Miami	Partly Cloudy	79F (26C)	64F (18C)
New York City	Partly Cloudy	50F (10C)	35F (2C)
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	51F (11C)	31F (-1C)
Paris	Partly Cloudy	34F (1C)	24F (-4C)
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	54F (12C)	35F (2C)
Rome	Rain	47F (8C)	36F (2C)
Salem, Oregon	Sunny	38F (3C)	26F (-3C)
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	54F (12C)	42F (6C)
Seoul	Sunny	42F (6C)	20F (-7C)
Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	51F (11C)	42F (6C)
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	34F (1C)

House to fine-tune tobacco escrow account

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
ASSISTANT EDITOR

In 1995, the Massachusetts Attorney General sued major cigarette manufacturers to, among others, recover the costs incurred by the state government due to smoking-related diseases.

In Nov. 1998, the Massachusetts Attorney General and the attorneys general of 45 other states entered into a landmark settlement called the Master Settlement Agreement, which, among others, required the participating manufacturers to make annual payments to the settling states for a total of more than \$206 billion through 2025.

As of April 2002, 38 manufacturers have become “participating manufacturers” by signing the Master Settlement Agreement.

The question now arises: What about those other cigarette manufacturers who did not participate in the settlement agreement? That is where the Model Escrow Statute comes into the picture. The escrow statute—a requirement under the master settlement agreement—requires tobacco manufacturers who were not party to the settlement to deposit money into an escrow account, with the money to be used as payment for all future litigation that would be brought against these nonparticipating firms.

To enable the CNMI to continue receiving money from the master settlement agreement, it, along with the other participating states and territories, was required to come up with a law providing for the escrow statute. The CNMI government did, with the passage of Public Law 13-15, which was authored by

Rep. Gloria DLC. Cabrera.

However, the new law lacked an enforcement section that would make it effective. To rectify this, Cabrera introduced during the last session of the lower chamber a measure that would enhance and enforce the provisions of the escrow statute.

She said she expects the measure, House Bill 13-361, to be taken up in today’s session, which would begin at 10am.

“It has to be passed. Essentially, it [H.B. 13-361] would enforce the provisions of the escrow statute. The first one, P.L. 13-15, was establishing the escrow statute. This new one is to make sure that law is enforced,” she said.

Although the escrow statute was passed here, the escrow account is actually established in Washington D.C. under the watch of the litigating counsels, comprised of the attorney generals of all participating states and territories.

Under the master settlement agreement, the Commonwealth will receive \$500,000 each year from the cigarette manufacturers until the year 2024, totaling some \$30 million spread out over the next 21 years. Since December 1999 up to April 2001, the Commonwealth has already received five separate payments, amounting to \$815,254.94

Cigarette manufacturers entered into the agreement with the American government on Nov. 23, 1998, which obligates these manufacturers to pay \$206 billion to the different states and territories who are signatory to the agreement to offset public costs for the medical care of smoking victims.

The agreement frees up these companies from past, present, and future claims against them.



COUNTING GREENBACK
A Korean student counts money with her counterpart from Dandan Elementary School during a student-exchange program that seeks to broaden the children’s knowledge about each other’s cultures and traditions.

EDITH G. ALEJANDRO

Police hunt man in hit-and-run case

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Authorities are tracking down the driver of a blue Toyota pickup truck who reportedly fled after hitting two minors and a 19-year-old man in Tanapag Christmas Eve.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Sgt. Tom Blas, Jr. urged the community to help them find the suspect, whose identity is still unknown. The suspect left the scene after he struck a 5-year-old and a 14-year-old and their accompanying adult identified as Zidy B. Johanes, 19.

“This crash is still under investigation. Traffic investigators, along with the NMI Crime Stoppers, are seeking the help of the community who may have information on the accident and help us solve the case,” Blas said.

He added that individuals who may have information about the accident may call the Traffic Investigation Office at 664-9084 and 664-9085 or the Crime Stoppers’ Tips Line at 234-7272. All calls will remain anonymous

and cash rewards are given to information leading to an arrest.”

Medics were immediately dispatched to Tanapag as soon as calls for assistance were received around 9:24pm.

Traffic investigator Sgt. Tony Macaranas responded to the scene. He reported that the pedestrians were walking eastward along Haraw Street in Tanapag Homestead when the accident happened.

The driver of the Toyota pickup truck came from the Santa Remedios Street and entered Haraw Street where it veered off into the westbound shoulder of the road and struck the three victims.

After hitting the three pedestrians, the suspect allegedly did not stop and drove east toward 2W Highway in Tanapag, leaving the scene of accident.

Based on the report, Johanes sustained scratches to his arms while the 14-year-old victim sustained bruises on his right foot and leg. The 5-year-old boy suffered abrasions on the abdomen area. The three were brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment.

MARPAC

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Taking AIDS seriously

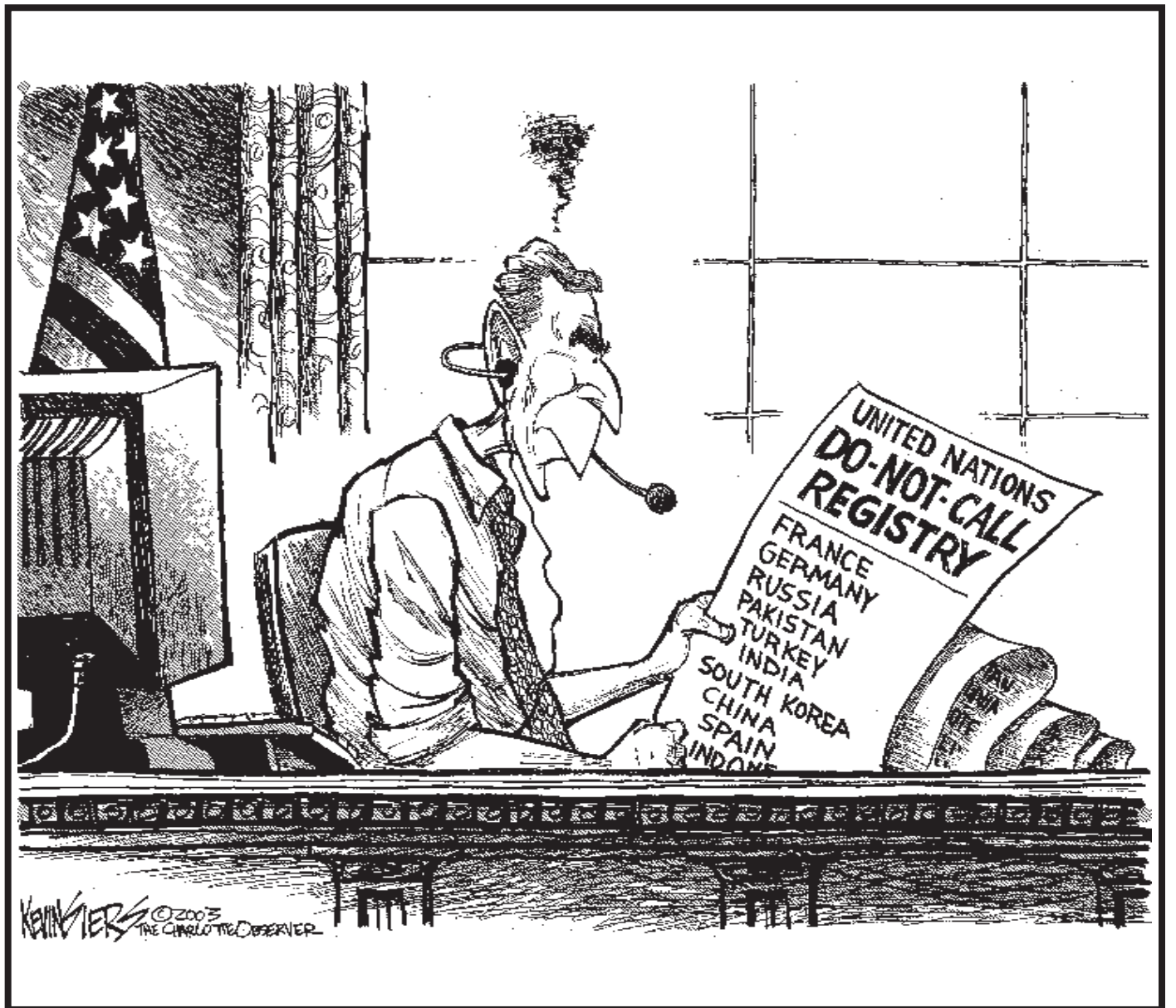
The World Health Organization this week announced an ambitious plan to treat 3 million AIDS victims in the developing world with antiretroviral drugs by the end of 2005. That's only half of the people who desperately need care, but it's 10 times as many patients as are currently receiving these life-sustaining therapies. In sub-Saharan Africa, in fact, only 50,000 people are getting care. As a result 8,000 people die every day—people who could be saved—and societies are collapsing. The WHO plans to put the emergency response skills it developed in connection with the SARS outbreak to work in countries hard hit by HIV. It aims to deliver, in large volumes, a standardized package of antiretroviral therapies and to train local health-care workers in the delivery of these therapies and related services. The new urgency at WHO is welcome, and its plan seems well conceived and deserving of support.

Treating people with AIDS in Africa is a problem of such magnitude that it can induce a certain paralysis in policymakers, many of whom have fallen back on prevention as the only viable way to stop the pandemic. Yet at a certain point—a point long since past—it becomes immoral to focus narrowly on preventing further infection, as governments are now recognizing. It also doesn't work; people are more likely to come in for testing—and so further the goal of prevention—if they know treatment is available for those in need. Nor are the cost of drugs or the sorry state of Africa's health infrastructure excuses for inaction. Drug prices will continue to drop the more people are treated, and infrastructure will just have to be built.

In this country, President Bush's much-trumpeted global AIDS initiative is mired in a spat over funding levels. Bush has sought a little more than \$2 billion for the first year of his five-year, \$15 billion program, a level that has Democrats and AIDS advocates crying foul. The administration argues that Africa's health infrastructure cannot absorb larger sums of money in the early years of the program, so it means to ramp up spending over time.

The real problem, though, seems to lie not in Africa but in the administration's inability to distribute the money. In fact, at this stage, there is reason for concern about whether even the lower funding levels will actually get spent in the first year.

Washington Post



Annan lays out AIDS crisis in stark terms

By JOSEPH DOLMAN

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan behaved in shocking fashion this week. He threw aside 20 years worth of diplomatic argle-bargle and blurted out God's ugly truth about the war against AIDS.

By the United Nations' own standards, he declared, the fight to defeat the virus was failing.

His new tactic of vigorous candor might ultimately come to be regarded as a watershed moment in the long — and so far losing — struggle to beat back one of the worst pandemics in human history.

Gone were the usual hollow pleas to keep hope alive. Gone was the Greek chorus of public-health functionaries, telling us that hard-hit countries were finally beginning to mobilize. Gone were the benign public expressions of faith that rich donor nations would someday wake up and save Africa.

The main theme has abruptly changed.

"We are not on track to begin reducing the scale and impact of the epidemic by 2005," Annan told the General Assembly, in a reference to the United Nations' own timetable. "By that date, we should have cut the number of young people infected by HIV in the worst affected nations. We should have halved the rate at which infants contract HIV. We should have comprehensive care programs in place." But none of this has happened.

What kind of job has the world done to roll back the advance of AIDS?

Peter Piot of UNAIDS told a press conference after Annan's address on Monday that the world's nations in aggregate have earned barely passing marks. No country gets an A, he said.

Richard Feachem of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS was less sanguine. "We spent the first two decades of this pandemic sitting on our hands and doing very little to contain it," he said. But might this really be a watershed?

Yes, it might. That's because Annan and the constellation around him didn't just acknowledge failure on Monday and stalk off the dais. Instead, he coupled his remarks with a refreshingly gutsy plan to provide HIV-slowing drugs to 3 million people, most of them in Africa, within two years.

If 3 million doesn't sound like a big deal on a continent where 30 million human beings live with HIV today, bear in mind that just 4.1 million of Africa's HIV-infected population at the moment need

antiretroviral drug therapy. And bear in mind that just 50,000 people — 1 percent of those who require urgent care now — are getting it.

This could be a very big deal.

But its success depends on the outcome of two gigantic tasks. The first one involves a new role for the World Health Organization. This agency always before has tended to move at a civilized diplomatic pace — also known as slow-motion.

While emergency-room doctors measure their progress in hours, the WHO has tended to gauge the progress of its missions in eons. And, true to its diplomatic underpinnings, it seems to have worked diligently over the years not to pick nasty fights with even the loopy heads of state.

But now, under its new chief, Jong-wook Lee, the WHO is planning to take a more active role in the AIDS fight. Someday soon, it will deliver more than advice. It will deliver antiretroviral drugs. Or at the least it will go into countries and build the infrastructures that will enable local doctors themselves to distribute life-prolonging medicine.

"For the first time," Piot said, "the stars are getting into the right configuration." The cost of antiretroviral drugs has dropped from thousands of dollars a year to about \$300. Doctors have simplified anti-HIV drug regimens from a hopeless mess involving numerous medications and time-sensitive schedules to just one pill a day in some cases. Which means it is now possible for a well-coordinated and generously funded effort to provide HIV treatment fast where it's needed.

Which brings us to the second risk.

Even if the WHO can shake off its bureaucratic lethargy and work more like MASH and less like a state board of medical examiners, what does it plan to do for money? On Monday, the implication was clear. Unless the United States, Europe and an assortment of other nations and private donors come through in a major way, the effort will fail. At the moment, the outcome is anybody's guess.

It's a funny thing. For years, the public-health establishment has urged a policy of honesty and pragmatism. But it never quite leveled with us about its own stark limitations. Now it has. And now we know that, unless we make some changes quick, the daily death toll of about 8,000 lost to AIDS will continue.

Dolman is a columnist and member of Newsday's editorial board.

UN revival requires US commitment

By Stephen Schlesinger
LOS ANGELES TIMES

“Four times in the modern age,” English historian John Keegan has written, “men have sat down to reorder the world—at the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 after the Thirty Years War, at the Congress of Vienna in 1815 after the Napoleonic Wars, in Paris in 1919 after World War I and in San Francisco in 1945 after World War II.” Such is the march of human history that all of these events—except for the most recent one—collapsed in disagreements that eventually led to renewed war.

The ultimate outcome of the San Francisco Conference is still not known. However, what happened there that produced the last of these grand compacts, the United Nations, has already had an enormous impact over the last six decades. Indeed, the founding of the United Nations in the age of nuclear weaponry—far more sinister circumstances than any faced by those earlier meetings—is affecting the survival or demise of humanity.

The United Nations and its labors have become the background noise of our global age. It is truly ubiquitous. It has overseen 40 years of decolonization around the planet; sent peacekeepers to places such as Cambodia, Cyprus and Sinai; helped end apartheid in South Africa via sanctions. The United Nations’ World Health Organization was critical in eradicating smallpox and is on the verge of stamping out polio; its World Food Program feeds hungry people in Africa; its U.N. Development Program sends more multilateral aid dollars abroad than any nation.

People forget that before the United Nation’s founding, there was no truly functioning international organization (except for the creaky, faltering League of Nations). This meant that for many decades there was no place for nations to go in global crises.

Today, after half a century of the United Nations, few of us are unaware that this aging experiment in global society exists and has given some modicum of hope to the world—despite a dearth of financial resources and the brickbats tossed at it by American politicians. It has become the world’s geopolitical emergency room. The question is whether it can survive.

Right-wing demagogues in our land have so unremittingly denigrated the organization for so long—calling it bloated, anti-American, a body that wastes time on speechmaking, abdicates its responsibilities and remains out of touch—that leading members of the Senate now routinely dismiss its importance and argue that it unnecessarily limits our sovereignty.

Furthermore, unilateralism is back in fashion. The Bush administration, after the attacks of Sept. 11, has promulgated a doctrine of preventive war that allows the United States to go into battle whenever it decides against whomever it wishes, regardless of whether there is a legitimate provocation. Recently one of Bush’s hard-line appointees, Richard Perle, publicly derided the United Nations as being as ineffectual as the League of Nations. And last spring, the United States brazenly bypassed the U.N. Security Council to invade Iraq, relying on its pre-emptive doctrine. Tuesday, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said this crisis was a “fork in the road” for the organization, as decisive as the United Nations’ founding.

The sad fact is that our country would probably not pass the same U.N. Charter today that the U.S. Senate ratified by an overwhelming vote, 89-2, in 1945. Even putting aside its lone-cowboy maneuvers, if Washington had wanted to reinvent the United Nations it would have been virtually impossible to persuade the 191 nations of the world again to draft a charter for the security of the Earth because of the sheer number of countries and the profusion of political differences. (Originally, the organization had 50 members.)

As we look back on the United Nations’ creation, we should realize how fortunate we were to get it in the first place. It took a grand vision, formidable planning and brilliant political leadership from two American presidents—Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman—to turn the organization into reality. Having endured the most calamitous war in history, this World War II generation extracted from the human propensity for devastation the right lesson for our time.

If we are to revive the role of the United Nations today as a peacemaker and security guarantor, the United States, as the only superpower on the planet, must again commit itself to the organization. President Bush himself has slowly come to this realization in the Iraq crisis. He is now seeking to reinvolve our fate with the United Nations because it offers political legitimacy for the American occupation of Iraq. And beyond Iraq, the United Nations bestows cover for various other U.S. global missions, allowing Washington to save taxpayers’ dollars and the lives of its soldiers.

Instead of taking on international ventures alone, we are able to share the burdens of the work to stop bloodshed, reconstruct societies, police conflicts, train armies, provide legal frameworks, uphold governance standards and promote human rights. The creation of the United Nations is as timely now as it was 58 years ago.

Schlesinger is the director of the World Policy Institute at the New School University and author of “Act of Creation: The Founding of the United Nations.”

Bush gambled big—and lost

What a difference a year makes. On Sept. 12, 2002, President Bush traveled to the United Nations and declared that the world body would be “irrelevant” if it didn’t jump on his war bandwagon. The United Nations said “no,” the war started, and yet Bush went back anyway, asking the suddenly relevant United Nations for help.

Why did he do it? Easy. He’s in big trouble. According to a new Gallup Poll, his approval/disapproval rating is 50/47. Indeed, he loses in head-to-head match-ups with both Wesley Clark and John Kerry—who, perhaps not coincidentally, are the two candidates in the race who went off to fight in Vietnam, back in the days when baby boomers had to decide whether to risk everything for their country.

Bush is in trouble because he gambled, gambled big—and lost. He overplayed his war cards.

After 9/11, the world rallied to America’s side. Foreigners laid wreaths and lighted candles in front of U.S. embassies; the French newspaper Le Monde published a front-page editorial headlined, “We are all Americans.” The German foreign minister, a member of the Green Party, sat in the Oval Office, wearing red, white and blue ribbons, and offered “unlimited solidarity.” NATO mobilized for America. The United Nations condemned the 9/11 attack and endorsed American action against the terrorists.

Within weeks, the Taliban and al-Qaida were gone from power in Afghanistan. If Bush had stopped there, he could have seized the moment to build a new world order based on collective defense against terrorism, a global alliance of countries wanting their big-city skylines to remain intact. And 90 percent of the countries in the world would have clamored to join, isolating the true rogues.

But instead, he went down a different path. Spurning the multilateral approach that worked in Afghanistan—and still works, as measured by the polynational contingent of troops pulling peacekeeping duty to this day—he decided that the United States would go after Iraq, with or without the world. His neoconservative advisers and propagandists convinced him that he was another Winston Churchill, destined for world-historical greatness—if he just followed their unilateral-war guidance.

So the Texan spent 2002 campaigning for a fight with Iraq. He gained support in the United States, even as he lost it around the world. Muslim allies such as Turkey peeled away. The U.N.

A new disciplined day in America

TEN - HUT!
Location: Campaign HQ of Gen. Wesley K. Clark.
Time: 0500 Hours.
Columnist reporting for interview, sir.

At ease, son.
Request permission to interview the general, sir.
Permission granted. Smoke ‘em if you got ‘em.
Thank you, sir. First question: What do you think is the biggest problem facing the country today?

We’re soft, that’s what wrong with us. We have no discipline. We’ve gotten flabby and lazy.
So what would you do about that, general?
Do about it? I’ll tell you what I’ll do about it — boot camp. Boot camp?

Twelve weeks, mandatory for every man, woman and child, KP, calisthenics, 25-mile hikes. We’ll turn these puke civilians into citizens this country can be proud of.

Do you think people would go along with that, general?
Stupid question, son. Drop down and give me 25 pushups. Whew! Next question . . . whew! . . . homeland security . . . whew!

Homeland security! We got people shipping themselves around the country in crates. We got news organizations smuggling radioactive material all over the place undetected. Disney World has tighter security than we do.

How would you rectify that, general?
First, we establish a perimeter, dig some foxholes, string some barbed wire. Then we make everyone ages 18-55 pull guard duty. Finally, we create a national password—blue mambo. You don’t know the password, you don’t get in.

By JAMES P. PINKERTON
Special to Newsday

Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.



Security Council opposed him; he couldn’t even get the vote of his “friend,” Russian chief Vladimir Putin. Parenthetically, one must note with wonder that Bush has never figured out that the ex-KGB man has been playing him like a balalaika. It can be said that no president has been so trusting of the Russians since Franklin D. Roosevelt clinked glasses with Josef Stalin during World War II.

And then of course, besotted with speechwriter-generated “moral clarity,” Bush went to war anyway. The plan was to catch or kill Saddam Hussein, expose the weapons of mass destruction and get out clean. By now, the United States was supposed to have maybe 30,000 troops overseeing happy Iraqis electing a pro-American government and paying for their own reconstruction with oil money.

None of those optimistic scenarios has come true. The president’s latest rationale is that the war was fought to secure human rights in Iraq. His hard-core supporters have fallen loyally into line—although curiously, most opposed helping Liberia, and none demand action against mass slaughter in Congo.

And Bush now has enemies on the right, too. Many of the neoconservatives who urged him into Iraq are now urging him to invade Syria and/or Iran—and making no secret of their disappointment in his not heeding them. Neo-hawk Mark Helprin, for example, writing in the Claremont Review of Books, dismisses Bush’s entire Middle East policy as “ill-conceived” in its Iraq-only focus.

That’s what happens when a big mission fails. The opponents get close for the haymaker, and Machiavellian supporters get out of the way. And incidentally, he won’t get much out of the United Nations.

Bush might still hunker down at home, play to his base and win re-election. But his foreign policy “vision” has been shattered. The pieces that once reflected his own vain posturing are strewn across America. They are drenched in blood but, of course, it’s not Bush’s.

By JIM SHEA
The Hartford Courant

Shea is a columnist for The Hartford Courant.



General, what would you do about the growing divide among the classes?

There are no classes in this man’s America. There are officers, and there are enlisted personnel. And everyone will know who’s who by their uniform.

Uniform?
Khakis and dress whites; Hawaiian shirts if you’re on R&R. If you are elected . . .

If, son? There’s no if in this man’s America. Drop down and give me another 25.

Whew! When you are . . . whew! . . . elected . . . whew! . . . how will you deal with a Republican controlled Congress?

Good, question, son, good question.
Thank God.

I’ll tell you how I’ll deal with Congress. First, I’ll give them a chance to surrender.

Surrender? And if they don’t?
Then we attack, launch Operation Gasbag.

You’d attack Congress?

Darn straight, although I’d get the United Nations behind me first.

Saipan Tribune

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IT'S HUSTLE

From Page 1

Panel pursues own review of desalination project

By **LIBERTY DONES**
REPORTER

The House committee on public utilities, transportation and communications is pursuing its review of the desalination project to determine whether to conduct a full-blown investigation on the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation’s proposed desalination project.

This, as the Office of the Public Auditor has completed its preliminary report on the subject, recommending that the CUC cancel the whole project altogether due to “flawed and tainted” actions.

PUTC chairman Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero said his committee is set to hold a meeting tomorrow afternoon on the matter.

Asked to comment on OPA’s findings, Guerrero said

the “OPA report is fairly consistent with our finding so far. But there are other concerns that we’ve identified.”

Primarily, he said, the committee would do an oversight to determine if CUC actions violated procurement regulations or not.

Both the House panel and the OPA earlier obtained documents from the utility firm on the project amid allegations of irregularities.

The panel’s action came after Saipan Rep. Stanley T.

Torres called for an investigation citing that the CUC board may have committed abuse of authority and breach of fiduciary duty in its selection of Taekwang Heavy Industries to do the project.

Torres earlier alleged that the desalinization contract was a “sweetheart deal” and that information on the dealings was privy only to some and not all CUC board members.

Taekwang has proposed to sell 3 million of gallons of water at \$7.98 per 1,000

gallons a day or some \$136-million in 15 years.

Meantime, acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente yesterday said he hopes that CUC would adhere to the OPA findings to avoid a fiasco. “We don’t want another Enron story. I hope that with OPA’s findings, we won’t create another liability.”

The OPA, in an initial report dated Dec. 19, 2003, asked the CUC to cancel the whole project, stop any negotiations on the project, and to rescind any and

all agreements it signed with any project proposers.

“OPA has found that there is sufficient evidence to conclude that CUC’s actions regarding this proposed project were flawed and tainted to a significant degree,” said Public Auditor Michael Sablan.

He cited that a July 9, 2003 pre-RFP agreement between the CUC board chairman and Taekwang “destroys the concept of a valid, competitive, and unbiased RFP, as required by both CUC and the CNMI

Procurement Regulations.” OPA also cited the lack of confidentiality in processing the proposals, which represents a breach of CUC’s procurement regulations.

OPA recommended “that the entire CUC board and CUC management receive training in regards to ethics and fiduciary responsibility.”

The CUC board’s majority earlier said that Taekwang was the most responsive among three other proposers: Mitsui USA, GET Inc., and Telesource.

Driver, passenger injured in car crash

A driver and his passenger were brought to the Commonwealth Health Center after their vehicle crashed with two other vehicles along As Terlaje Sunday morning.

The driver, Juan Q. Inos, 51, complained of chest and abdominal pains after the crash while his unidentified female passenger suffered a laceration on the right side of the head. The two were admitted to the CHC for observation but were later released.

The Department of Public Safety reported that around 11:43am Sunday, Inos was traveling westbound on the inner lane of the As Terlaje Hill when he noticed the driver of a 1989 Toyota Hilux had stopped ahead of him by a garment factory.

In an attempt to avoid crashing onto the vehicle driven by Diosdado Suba, 36, Inos swerved to the left side of the inner lane and encroached on the eastbound lane. The vehicle following him that was driven by 45-year-old Danilo Enriquez also swerved to the inner lane at the same time.

By the time the two vehicles encroached the eastbound inner lane, Suba made his turn on the eastbound inner lane and collided with the two vehicles.

Due to the impact of the crash, Inos and his passenger suffered minor injuries and were brought to the CHC. The Department of Public Safety dispatched medics to the site to assist the victims. *(Edith G. Alejandro)*

triple j
cmyk



SUDS FOR FUNDS
Beach Rd. models and friends pose for the camera during Shell's Suds for Funds car wash fundraiser that was able to raise \$264 for the Northern Marianas Beauty Pageant Association and the Division of Youth Services' Children's Foundation last Dec. 27. From left are Beach Rd. model Derryl, Wilma Jean Fleming, Diana Benavente and Beach Rd. models Aubrey and Ghie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

500 students from Hokkaido to arrive on Saipan tomorrow

The Marianas Tourism Education Council, in coordination with the Public School System and the Pacific Development Inc., announced that close to 500 students, aged 8-12 years old, from the University of Hokkaido in Japan, will be arriving on Saipan tomorrow, Dec. 31, on a goodwill visit.

Estimated arrival time is

7:30am at the Saipan Harbor-Charlie Dock. From there, PDI will transport the students to the Garapan Elementary School where they will be welcomed by My WAVE Club members from various schools for a day of fun, exchange of gifts, and dance numbers, among others.

In this regard, parents are reminded to bring their kids to

GES and join this exciting annual event.

There is also a scheduled dinner reception at 6:30pm on the same day aboard the Fuji Maru, the ship that would be bringing in the students from Japan.

For more information, contact Gordon Marciano of PDI at 322-8761.

Fate of new Fiji airport known soon

SUVA, Fiji (FijiSUN/PIR)—The future for Virgin Blue Airline operating from an international airport in Vanua Levu will be known early next year.

Labasa mayor Councilor Charan Jeath Singh is in Brisbane, Australia holding meetings with the airline executives.

Speaking to the FijiSUN from Brisbane, Cr Singh said he is playing everything close to his chest as he meets the airline's hierarchy in the next couple of days. "It's all in our plans and I'm playing things one at a time and put together a constructive piece of paper on the project.

"This I will be able to let the government and the people

know once I get back to Fiji with all the necessary paper work done," said Cr Singh, who is a former Air Pacific pilot.

In an earlier interview, Cr Singh revealed the council plans of establishing an international airport in Seaqqa because of its central location and to work out a deal with Virgin Blue Airline to fly in using Vanua Levu as its entry point.

The purpose of the project was to boost the economy of Vanua Levu as the sugar industry is on the verge of collapsing. Cr Singh if the plan materializes then Savusavu would be promoted as a tourist destination while Labasa for industrial developments.

Also, farmers would

benefit as their vegetables and fruits would be directly exported from there instead of through Viti Levu.

"Even though I lost the by-election, I will continue to serve the people of Vanua Levu and work on from there."

Cr Singh is to fly on to Bali, Mauritius and Malaysia for business meetings on the development of Vanua Levu.

"The trip has come at a right timing for me to relax a bit, do some business meetings and political ones as well."

Meanwhile, Cr Singh said that even though he has lost the by-election he still has not lost his battle with Labor leader Mahendra Chaudhry.

Students get Christmas cheer

Two radio stations on Saipan have launched a food drive "to bring a little bit of Christmas cheer" to Saipan University students.

At least 88 students from China came to the newly-launched Saipan University to attend an English as a second language course. Each paid at least USD\$3500 to make the trip.

They had been told they would be able to work in Saipan and had been given pamphlets showing a splendorous campus, both of which turned out not to be reality when they arrive. The claims made by the privately owned institution and its operations are under investigation.

From 12pm to 5pm Wednesday, a radio disc jockey went on live broadcast from the intersection of Beach Road and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero to seek food donation from passersby for the Chinese students.

The public came through and provided the students with a Christmas meal to cheer them up.

THE 88 students finally got their temporary work authorization as promised by the CNMI government which allows them to legally work on island while the federal court hears the fraud complaints they filed against their university's founder. **(PINA)**

Growers report palm fungus all over island

Department of Agriculture officials said they have received calls from people all over the island reporting signs of a fast-spreading fungus on their betel nut palms.

Customs Officer Alex Perez of the Agriculture Department's Plant Inspection Station said inspectors will investigate in the coming weeks.

The fungus, which destroys betel nut palms within weeks of infection, has killed hundreds of the palms. Agriculture specialists said they fear the island's entire betel nut population could be wiped out. Saipan's betel nut population was destroyed

several years ago by what is believed to be the same fungus.

The agriculture department has asked those with betel nut trees on their property to report any symptoms of the disease. Symptoms include: lesions on the leaves and extensive deterioration of the younger leaves and the green part at the base of the leaves.

Earlier last week, agriculture officials said any betel nut palm with the fungus should be cut down and burned to avoid the spread of the fungus. A fungicide to protect betel nut palms that are not infected exists, but is not available on Guam. **(PDN/ PINA)**

Korean navy ships visit Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (FijiSUN/PIR)—Three warships from the Cruise Training Force of the Republic of South Korea Navy are berthed at the Suva Princes Wharf on a goodwill visit round the Pacific.

The ships each have 800 officers and crew on board.

Commander, Rear Admiral Joong Ryun Kim, said the warships sailed into Suva Harbor yesterday after a stopover in Wellington, New Zealand.

It took the crew a week to reach Suva.

It is the warships' fifth visit to Fiji. The last one was in 1999.

During its three-day visit, the

officers and crew will perform various events such as a friendly performance of Tae-kwando, an honor guards' exhibition, culture tour, open ship, free clinic and donation of presents such as books and clothes to the Korean School.

Senior officers will pay courtesy calls on the Commander of the Fiji Military Forces, the Commander of the Navy and the Mayor of Suva.

The cadets are all due to graduate next year. There are six female officers on the ships, two in each, and 15 female cadets.

The warships leave tomorrow for the Solomon Islands.

sporting goods

Business

Durable-goods orders drop 3.1 percent

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP WRITER

America’s factories saw orders for big-ticket goods drop by 3.1 percent in November, the largest decline in more than a year, raising new questions about how firm a grip manufacturers have on their own fragile recovery.

The drop reported by the Commerce Department Wednesday in orders for “durable goods”—costly manufactured items expected to last at least three years—came after a brisk 4 percent advance in October and a solid 2.2 percent increase in September.

The 3.1 percent decrease was the first decline since August and the largest since September 2002, when durable-goods orders fell by 6 percent.

The performance in November was considerably weaker than economists were expecting. They were forecasting a 0.6 percent rise. The weakness was broad based, with cars, communications equipment, computers and machinery among the categories showing a drop in orders last month.

Although economists were disappointed, they said they believe the drop in durable-goods orders in November was just a short-lived, one-month rough patch rather than a signal of troubled times ahead for the nation’s manufacturers.

“It does point out that while manufacturers have made

significant gains, manufacturing is still very fragile and conditions could change quickly. But there is nothing that happened in November that would suggest that the declines would continue,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. “All signals point to continued improvement in business investment.”

Zandi said he expects durable-goods orders to bounce back in December and that those numbers would be examined closely by economists.

On Wall Street, the weaker-than-expected manufacturing report and the nation’s first case of mad cow disease sent stocks lower. The Dow Jones industrials closed down 36.07 points at 10,305.19.

In other economic news, new claims for unemployment benefits dipped last week by a seasonally adjusted 1,000 to 353,000, the Labor Department said in a report that suggested the pace of layoffs is stabilizing.

New-home sales declined by 2.4 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.08 million, the Commerce Department said in another report. The followed a 2.5 percent decrease in October. Even with the recent declines, new-home sales are on track to set a record high for all of 2003, economists say.

On the manufacturing front, the factory sector was hardest hit by the 2001 recession and has

struggled since then to get on a recovery path. Manufacturers have lost 2.8 million jobs since July 2000, the month factory employment peaked in the last economic expansion.

Wednesday’s durable-goods report was inconsistent with a string of other economic reports in recent months that have suggested that the manufacturing sector may truly be on the mend.

Excluding orders for transportation equipment, which can swing widely from month to month, orders for all other big-ticket goods declined by 3.7 percent in November, the largest decrease since June 2002.

Orders for communications equipment plummeted by 40 percent last month, erasing all of the 19.4 percent gain in orders seen in October. Orders for computers dipped by 0.3 percent in November, on top of a 0.8 percent drop the previous month.

Orders for cars and parts went down by 1.2 percent last month, following a 0.5 percent decline. For machinery, orders fell 0.9 percent, compared with a 3.1 percent advance in October. Orders for primary metals, including steel, dropped by 2.6 percent last month after a 9.5 percent rise in October.

The Federal Reserve at its last meeting of the year in early December opted to hold a key short-term interest rate at a 45-year low of 1 percent and suggested it may stay near rock-bottom levels for some time. Super low short

term rates might motivate consumers and businesses to spend and invest more, thus boosting economic growth.

The economy grew at breakneck 8.2 percent annual rate in the third quarter, the best performance in nearly two decades. Economists believe the economy slowed in the current quarter, with estimates ranging from a pace of at least 4 percent to slightly above a 5 percent rate in the current quarter—which would still represent a healthy clip.

FAO parent accepts bid for NYC store

FAO Inc. will sell its flagship Manhattan toy store, FAO Schwarz, along with some other assets for \$20 million, the bankrupt company announced Friday.

The deal with VGACS Acquisition Inc., a subsidiary of D.E. Shaw Laminar Portfolios LLC, also includes a store in the Forum Shops in Las Vegas, FAO Schwarz’s signature clock towers and its Internet and catalog businesses.

The parent company hopes to gain bankruptcy court approval of the deal, or any better offer, by Jan. 22.

FAO Inc., based in suburban Philadelphia, will sell the remaining inventory before the new company closes to remodel the two stores, with their reopening projected for next summer.

The FAO Schwarz store in New York City draws tourists from around the world, with an

image as a playland that has been reinforced by movies such as “Big,” which featured Tom Hanks and Robert Loggia playing “Chopsticks” on a giant piano keyboard.

The company also said it had completed the sale of 34 Right Start stores to Hancock Park Associates of Los Angeles. Terms of that transaction, which FAO had said on Wednesday was approved by a bankruptcy judge, were not disclosed.

FAO Inc. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Dec. 4, less than eight months after emerging from an earlier bankruptcy. The company then had 15 FAO Schwarz stores, 38 Right Start stores and 89 Zany Brainy stores.

The company said it does not expect common stockholders to recover any of their investments through the bankruptcy process. (AP)

Western farmers turn to selling water

By SETH HETTENA
AP WRITER

Ron Aschermann could barely eke out a living raising melons, cucumbers, tomatoes or other crops on his 300-acre farm. But quitting the business will earn him more than \$1.2 million. Aschermann and scores of other farmers on the high plains of southeastern Colorado are selling water, which once produced melons, to the Denver suburb of Aurora.

The prairie will retake land that has long known the plow.

"Yeah, it's not a healthy thing to do for the area, but let me tell you: Farming is not that great anymore either. These rural communities in almost any state you want to go into, they're all getting smaller," said Aschermann, a 60-year-old whose family has farmed in the area since 1911. "The best dollar for the asset right now is the water."

The same thing is happening across

the West as the nation's fastest-growing region shifts more water from farms to thirsty cities. Billions of gallons changed hands last year in eight Western states, and even more will flow in years to come. California recently approved a 75-year shift of water from desert farms to San Diego, the biggest transfer of its kind in U.S. history.

Colorado's Arkansas River Valley serves as a cautionary example for the West's burgeoning water market. For a one-time payment of \$18 million, Aurora bought water to flush toilets and grow flowers at new homes, and a faded farm region will be dealt another blow. What was once the pride of Rocky Ford - a 13-mile ditch that settlers dug by hand shortly after the Civil War - will be nearly drained. When the water leaves, more jobs and local businesses are expected to dry up as well.

"Westwide, over the next 25 to 50 years, you will clearly see additional examples of what's happening in the

Arkansas Valley," said Bennett Raley, a Denver water lawyer who is now the Bush administration's point man for Western water issues.

Across the Arkansas River from Rocky Ford, Carl McClure, the 65-year-old president of the local farmer's union, offers a tour of what happened to a neighboring county that sold most of its water to Colorado Springs and other cities.

McClure noses his pickup past Crowley County's closed railroad stations, empty storefronts and a shuttered car dealership. An alfalfa field has disappeared beneath the Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility. McClure retired after working there 12 years to supplement his farm income.

"This is what replaces farms, when you take the water away," McClure said, gazing at the prison's floodlights and chain-link fence.

Down the road is the newer Crowley County Correctional Facility. Together,

the two prisons house more than 2,000 male inmates, nearly half the county's population and much of its growth.

"It can be very depressing," McClure said. "Crowley County is a prime example of what shouldn't happen."

It's a fate that California's Imperial Valley, the state's poorest region, hopes to avoid. In October, the desert farm region, which uses more of Colorado River than most states, agreed to ship some of its supply to San Diego for \$3.5 billion over 45 years—the biggest sale of its kind in U.S. history.

Imperial found itself under extraordinary and unprecedented pressure to sell. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation threatened to take away some water that it deemed the desert farmers were wasting.

The water sale is designed to give Imperial and its \$1 billion-a-year farm economy a measure of financial security, but many worry about the

future of the valley tucked in California's southeastern corner. Valley farmers flood desert fields to produce huge amounts of alfalfa, a thirsty, low-value crop. The question on many minds is whether growers will be tempted to farm water rather than farm the land.

"It's much easier to go the mailbox and pick up a check than it is to go out there and put in a 60-, 70-, 80-hour week," said John Pierre Menvielle, a third-generation farmer in Heber, Calif., who has been raising crops in the valley for 32 years.

Farm towns in California have gone under when they lost their water to cities. The Owens Valley, in the high desert east of the Sierra, became a dust bowl when Los Angeles quietly acquired its water and flushed it down an aqueduct to the city 90 years ago. The 1974 film "Chinatown" was loosely based on what's been dubbed the "water grab."

US officials address mad cow in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—U.S. agriculture officials flew to Japan on Sunday to address concerns in the world's largest market for American beef about the discovery of the first case of mad cow disease in the United States.

Japan, which bought more than \$1 billion of U.S. beef last year, joined more than two dozen nations that suspended imports after a cow in Washington state tested positive for the brain-wasting bovine disease last week.

A delegation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture led by David Hegwood, a trade adviser to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, was scheduled to meet with Japanese officials in Tokyo on Monday.

The USDA's chief veterinary officer, Dr. Ron DeHaven, said on Sunday that any trade ban on American beef "should be well-founded on science."

He noted that science shows that certain meat cuts are safe from infection. Ground beef from labeled cuts like chuck or round, as well as beef steaks, roast, liver and tongue, are considered safe, experts say.

DeHaven said that suggests that the trade restrictions being imposed "are not well-founded in science."

The meeting with U.S. officials is unlikely to lead to Japan lifting its ban on imports of U.S. beef, the Japanese media reported, saying government officials here first want the United States to adopt more stringent screening of its herds.

After Japan suffered an outbreak of mad cow disease two years ago, Japanese authorities adopted a system under which all cattle bound for slaughter are tested for the brain-wasting bovine disease.

Investigators have tentatively traced the infected cow to Canada.

When Canada found its lone case of mad cow disease in May, Japan had threatened then to cut off American exports because the United States and Canada have traded cattle extensively.

The United States imported 298,000 cattle from Canada in 2001, the same year that the sick cow ended up in Washington. But live cattle trade between the two nations has declined since. From January to October this year, the United



A Japanese shopper examines packs of home-grown beef at a Consumers' Cooperative Tokyo My Co-op store in Tokyo Thursday, Dec. 25, 2003, one day after Japan, the No. 1 importer of U.S. beef, and more than a dozen of nations banned the imports of U.S. beef products following the discovery of the first suspected case of a mad cow disease at a Washington State farm.

States shipped in just 60,000 cattle from Canada. U.S. officials ended live cattle trade with Canada in May because of the mad cow case in Alberta.

The U.S. beef industry has been pushing to open the borders again. In October, the USDA issued a proposal to trade cattle that are only 30-months-old and younger. It is taking comments until January.

Such a move makes U.S. trading partners nervous.

In addition, U.S. and Canadian officials have been pressing international regulators at the World Organization for Animal Health, or OIE,

to change their policies so that beef and cattle trade would continue if a country suffers a single case of illness but does not have a widespread outbreak.

Currently, the organization recommends countries shut down their borders to beef trade with any nation where BSE is found.

USDA officials have said the delegation in Japan will likely also visit other Asian nations.

The United States sold \$1.03 billion of beef, veal, prepared beef products and variety meats to Japan in 2002, accounting for about 32 percent of total exports, according to the USDA. (AP)

Dairy farmers continue on despite mad cow

By SHANNON DININNY
AP WRITER

GRANGER, Wash. (AP)—Just hours old, a Holstein calf teeters on unsteady legs, shivering in the winter cold as John Prins nudges it into a stall of fresh, warm hay.

On dairy farms like this across the Yakima Valley, life and the daily responsibilities of farming go on amid the uproar over the first U.S. case of mad cow disease, found in a Holstein shipped to slaughter from a farm in nearby Mabton.

The news—which led to two dozen nations banning the import of U.S. beef—was a blow to an industry that has suffered through record low prices in recent years. Farmers hope that it is an isolated case and that consumer demand doesn't waver.

"I didn't think we'd see it in the United States," says Prins, a quiet Dutch immigrant who has been farming in the valley for nearly 30 years. "I'm a little bit concerned people will be afraid of dairy and beef."

About 80 dairy farms dot the Yakima Valley east of the Cascade Mountains, interspersed with fields of hops, wine grape vines and apple orchards.

Since the news of mad cow disease first broke last week, the farmers and others in the community have shied away from media attention. Only a trusted veterinarian could coax Prins into discussing his operation, the mad cow case and what it means for the cattle industry.

"I think the general public assumes too much," Prins says. "They assume food comes from the grocery store, meat comes from the meat counter, dairy comes from the dairy shelf."

Like many dairy farmers, his day starts at 5 a.m. Prins first checks on the calves that were born during the night—the farm averages about four each day and had a recent high of 19—then identifies the cows that have

given birth and are ready to be milked after the main herd.

Each cow is milked twice a day, and with a herd of 1,350 at three sites, milking goes on nearly around the clock.

Add in feeding, doctoring animals, baling hay, keeping the books, harvesting 400 acres of corn for feed in the summer, and the average day stretches to 7 p.m.—seven days a week.

The respite is Sunday morning church services, and the family probably has "the reputation for being late," Prins says with a laugh.

His parents immigrated to South Dakota from the Netherlands when he was a toddler. They moved to central Washington to open a dairy farm in 1959, a time when the family farm still meant a mom-and-pop operation raising a small herd of cattle.

Those days are disappearing, Prins says. He joined his father as a partner in the 1970s and bought him out in 1980. Two sons now have joined him as partners in what is considered a mid-size operation with 10 employees.

After calves are born, the heifers are sent elsewhere to be raised for three months before rejoining the dairy farm, and the young bulls are sold for beef along with aging dairy cows.

Since Yakima Valley farmers tend to raise dairy cows for themselves, rather than for sale, anyone planning to expand a herd must look elsewhere for new animals, usually to auctions in the Midwest and Canada. U.S. officials announced Saturday that they had tentatively traced the diseased cow to Alberta, Canada, where officials found another case of mad cow last May.

Cows require high maintenance: shots and immunizations, feed, equipment and replacement parts, electricity, fuel and labor - as well as quality controls to ensure all environmental and health regulations are met.

Those operating costs don't go down when beef or dairy prices fall.

Nation

Asia

World

Overdrive

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Life & Style

Wood is embodiment of 'Ring's' Frodo

By MICHAEL SRAGOW
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Thirty-five years ago, the graffito "Frodo Lives!" was as ubiquitous on college campuses as "Kilroy was here!" used to be on Army bases. Today, Elijah Wood has made "Frodo Live!" for new generations of J.R.R. Tolkien fans—and he's done it without minimizing the character's heroic complexity.

In a Manhattan hotel room recently, he eloquently dismissed the too-hip-to-live rap against "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy—the one that calls it a spectacle of epic simplicity about pure good vs. impure evil. "All the characters in Tolkien's novels doubt themselves or wrestle with demons all the time," he told me. "That's the human element in the books and movies, and that's what makes them connect with audiences and readers."

Contrary to their leprechaunish reputation, it isn't easy being a halfling when the weight of your known universe bears down on your furry feet. It's even harder to act Frodo, especially in the trilogy's final chapter, "The Return of the King," when the nonstop presence of the Ruling Ring and Frodo's prolonged quest to destroy it has begun to shred his own personality. The Ring promises omnipotence and gradually strips its Ring-bearer of human emotions. Yet Wood found the challenge of acting that mutation elating. "What was so exciting about the project was going through that internal journey—playing a character who starts out in an innocent place, and taking him to a very dark place where he almost shatters."

A few minutes later, Wood adds: "If you understand the human condition, if you understand where a character is coming from and where he's going, and try to embody that as best as you can, you just grab hold of that burden and make it come to life."

What makes the climax of "The Return of the King" as moving as it is turbulent is the amalgam of figures from various races and species fighting for survival with honor, often out of friendship. Actors of several nationalities and styles echoed this fraternity when they united to form the trilogy's "Fellowship of the Ring." Wood uses as an example Ian McKellen, the British stage legend who plays the wizard Gandalf: "For years and years and years he's been esteemed for doing wonderful things in the theater. But he didn't embody Gandalf from an overly stage presence or perspective—that might have alienated him from the rest of the movie process. Of course, Ian has his own way of inhabiting a character. There'd be days when I'd be working with him and I'd be pinching myself, because I felt I was sitting next to Gandalf."

The Holy Cross College theater and film Professor Steve Vineberg, who wrote the groundbreaking book "Method Actors," puts Wood's accomplishment right up there with McKellen's. As Vineberg said in a recent interview, "Elijah Wood does one of the most difficult things I've ever seen an actor do: Sustain the sense of a burden that's eating up a character while he's struggling to maintain his humanity."

Quote that statement back to Wood and he comes up with an unself-conscious "Wow." Not yet 23 (his birthday comes in January), Wood has been the focal point of the most

popular and acclaimed trilogy in movie history—what the "Godfather" and "Star Wars" movies might have been if each Part III hadn't proved a letdown. But he looks back on a three-part movie that took him from age 18, when production began, to 22, when he did his last "pick-up shot," as profound, exhilarating fun. "Part of it was being in New Zealand," he says. "Part of it was the friends all of the actors made. We were called upon to give so much of ourselves that it was a very growing, maturing experience."

Wood is alight with pride for embodying a pint-sized protagonist who goes from green naivete

to moral shades of gray. Still, as soon as Wood senses himself giving into hubris about playing "the spiritual guy" amid more battle-oriented hobbits, elves, men and dwarves, he corrects himself. "None of us is playing an archetype or cliché. We're all playing characters who are flawed. That's what's fascinating about Viggo Mortensen's character. Yes, Aragorn is a warrior; yes he's strong and heroic. But he's reluctant to be the king he knows he has to be, and it's because of his fear of his weakness as a man."

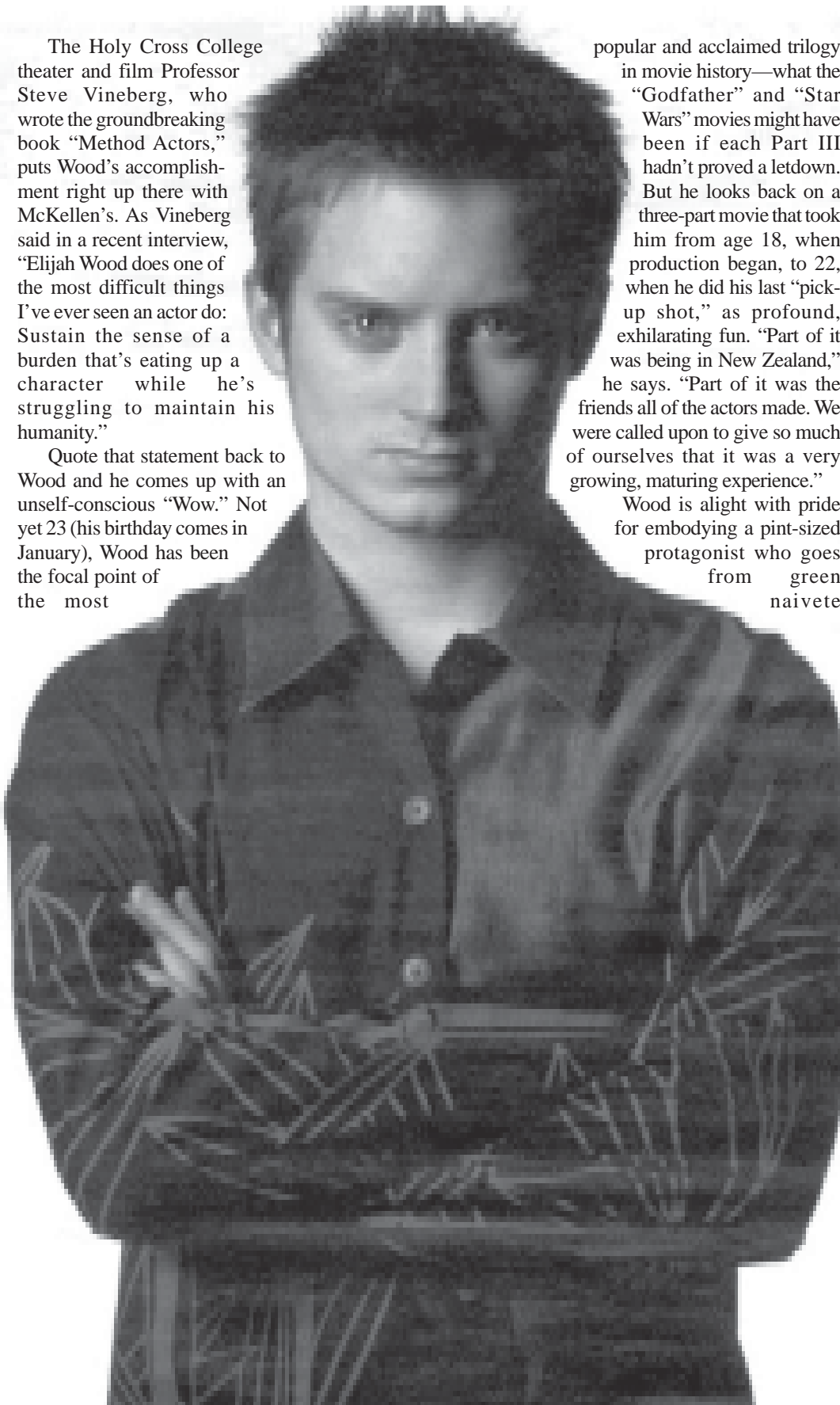
When production commenced on the trilogy, director Peter Jackson tried shooting as much material as possible from the first movie, "The Fellowship of the Ring," partly to set the momentum for the saga and allow the actors to get a fix on their characters. But fallback plans in case of inclement weather included filming material from "The Return of the King." Wood was initially terrified, because he had no time to prepare for the ultimate in existential woes—Frodo's feeling that he's disappearing from himself. As the filming went on, though, he found himself looking forward to the days when he'd jump from "The Fellowship of the Rings" or "The Two Towers" to "The Return of the King."

"We did have to map out exactly where Frodo was in his downward spiral. But that challenge also made these scenes the most enjoyable to do," he says.

Wood loves the way Jackson began "The Return of the King" by flashing back to the duplicitous Gollum first getting his hands on the Ring. Even for Wood, "it was a total surprise. I didn't know it was going to open that way. It's wonderful because you see where Gollum came from and you also see what the Ring is capable of doing. The Ring transformed him from a hobbit into Gollum, and that informs the relationship he has with Frodo."

Jackson and Wood took special care during "the Ring moments" when Frodo grabs the Ring and puts it on; he feels the eye of the evil Sauron studying him and his body shudders and eyes cloud. "Apart from the difficulty of making the spiritual effects of the ring physically manifest," Wood says, "we had to be certain that these moments wouldn't be repetitive and wouldn't get old for the audience."

From the start, Wood and Sean Astin intended to explore every angle of Frodo's bond with Astin's loyal, scrappy hobbit Sam. "Frodo early on is stronger in the sense that he's a little wiser than Sam, a little more focused, and he's constantly pushing Sam on and helping him. But when Frodo can't carry on himself any more, Sam becomes stronger—he picks Frodo up, literally. That whole change is beautiful and speaks volumes about their friendship."



We're so smart, and yet so dumb

You're not going to lose weight by rubbing stuff on your body.

You're not going to lose weight by drinking cheesecake shakes.

You're not going to lose weight by lying on the couch watching thin people on television exercise.

Deep down, everyone knows this.

So then why do we spend hard-earned money on such products?

Although you can't completely rule out the dumb-as-a-stump factor—years ago I bought this inflatable thing that you wore around your waist when you did sit-ups that was supposed to flatten your beer belly over the weekend—it goes beyond that.

I think a lot of our gullibility has to do with the fact that every day we are exposed to so much mind-boggling information about so many new discoveries that are so far beyond our comprehension, we become immune to the outrageous claim.

For example:

If we have a telescope that is so powerful it can look back through the universe to the beginning of time, how big a stretch

is it to believe that scientists have developed fat-melting pantaloons capable of giving you the thighs of a supermodel in just 10 minutes a day?

Or that you can achieve those thighs in half the time, if while you are wearing them while you drink cheesecake shakes and watch thin people exercise on television.

Do you see my point?

The smarter we get, the dumber we are.

You can claim almost anything, now, and people will think, why not?

Did you know that there is now a computer capable of feeding a four-year college education directly into your brain in an hour?

All you have to do is insert a couple of electrodes into your ears, pick your major, and hit enter. In 60 minutes you have your degree, no muss, no fuss, no studying, no weird roommates, no hangovers.

Or how about:

Mileage: The gas tablet, from Greenpeace. Just drop one into your tank; fill it with water from the garden hose; and triple your mileage while reducing your cost to just pennies a gallon.

Help wanted: Call this number if you want to earn 25 cents every

By JIM SHEA
The Hartford Courant

Shea can be reached at shea@courant.com.



time you change the channel on your television.

Skyrocketing medical costs: Want to cancel your health insurance today? Do what thousands of others have done, by purchasing the Home MRI Machine, which will allow you to diagnose medical problems without the hassle and expense of doctors. Comes with an illustrated manual that gives you step-by-step instructions for performing complex self-surgery in your own living room from the comfort of your favorite recliner.

Shed pounds: Want to know how I lost \$500 in one day? Send me your credit card number.

Jackson says authorities manhandled him

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Jackson says he was manhandled by authorities when arrested last month on child molestation charges—and suffered a dislocated shoulder from the way he was handcuffed.

“It’s hurting me very badly,” Jackson told CBS’s “60 Minutes” in an interview broadcast Sunday. “I’m in pain all the time.”

The pop music star denied the charges against him in a partial transcript of the interview released Friday, and said he still believes it’s acceptable to have children sleep in his bed.

On Sunday, CBS released the full transcript of Jackson’s Christmas night interview with Ed Bradley.

Jackson, 45, is charged with seven counts of performing lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent. After surrendering to Santa Barbara, Calif., authorities Nov. 20, he was set free on \$3 million bail.

Representatives of the Santa



AP
Michael Jackson talks to “60 Minutes” correspondent Ed Bradley, left, in an interview Thursday, Dec. 25, 2003 at a Los Angeles hotel. The interview is scheduled to be broadcast Sunday, Dec. 28 on the CBS television network.

Barbara County sheriff’s department did not immediately return a call seeking comment Sunday. Santa Barbara County District Attorney Thomas Sneddon has said Jackson was treated fairly while in custody.

The pop star said authorities sought to belittle him when he was taken into custody.

“They were supposed to go in, and just check fingerprints, and do the whole thing that they do when they take somebody in,” he said. “They manhandled me very roughly. My shoulder is dislocated, literally.”

The pain from being handcuffed behind his back “keeps me from sleeping at night,” he said.

Jackson said he was locked

in a restroom for 45 minutes after he asked to use the facilities. He said the room was smelly because of feces thrown all over.

His bedroom at his Neverland ranch was left a “total wreck” by investigators acting on a search warrant, Jackson said, although he admitted he has yet to see it.

Bradley pressed Jackson, a father of three, on whether he would allow his own children to sleep in a bed with a 45-year-old man and if he understood the way this appeared to others.

“People think sex,” Jackson said. “They’re thinking sex. My mind doesn’t run that way. When I see children, I see the face of God. That’s why I love them so much.”

‘Return of the King’ reigns at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The final installment of “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy continued to reign at the box office despite a handful of new openings as Hollywood had its best Christmas weekend ever.

“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” pulled in \$51.2 million in ticket sales for a total of \$224 million since opening two weeks ago, according to studio estimates released Sunday.

The fantasy film also posted the best Christmas Day gross of any current movie, \$14.6 million.

Out of the gate, the movie also has outstripped the first two chapters of the trilogy. It took just 11 days to cross the \$200 million mark—one day less than part two, “The Two Towers.”

Four movies opened over the holiday weekend, including “Cheaper by the Dozen.” The Steve Martin comedy was No. 2 with \$28.2 million over the weekend.

The Civil War epic “Cold Mountain” opened in third place with \$14.5 million. The R-rated, 2 1/2-hour movie opened on 2,167 screens.

“Paycheck,” a summer-style action movie, opened with \$13.9 million, and “Peter Pan,” a live-action retelling of the classic story, grossed \$11.4 million.

The total estimated weekend box office receipts for the top dozen pictures was \$168.6 million, a record, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracking

company Exhibitor Relations. The top 12 movies over the same weekend last year pulled in \$155.9 million, or 8.2 percent less, he said.

“Return of the King,” directed by Peter Jackson, wraps up the trilogy based on J.R.R. Tolkien’s epic adventure of hobbits, wizards, humans, elves and dwarves battling for control of the mythical realm of Middle-earth. The ensemble cast includes Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortensen and Cate Blanchett.

“They have had a major investment in the characters over the last few years. They are waiting for the dramatic ending,” said Rolf Mittweg, president and chief operating officer for New Line, which distributed the movie.

“Cold Mountain,” an \$80 million epic directed by Oscar-winner Anthony Minghella, features an ensemble cast led by Nicole Kidman, also an Academy Award winner. It co-stars Jude Law and Renee Zellweger, both previous Oscar nominees.



Orlando Bloom as Legolas and Viggo Mortensen as Aragorn in New Line’s “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of The King.”

wallace

Wife too tired to tango with husband hot to trot

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "John" for 11 years. We have four beautiful children. John earns enough money so I can be a stay-at-home mom to our little ones.

My problem is, John's sexual appetite is insatiable. It's driving me crazy. He demands sex twice a day and more often on weekends. If I tell him I'm tired or stressed, he threatens to find a girlfriend or a hooker. I don't know how much longer I can go on like this. Please help me.



Dear Abby

SEX SLAVE IN WICHITA

DEAR SEX SLAVE: With four children under the age of 10, it's no wonder you're feeling tired and stressed. Has your husband always been this way? If this is new behavior, he may need to be physically and neurologically evaluated by a physician. If it is not new behavior, then I hope you realize your problem isn't about sex as much as it is about dominance. Your husband is using sex as a bludgeon to keep you in line and show you who's boss.

Marriage is supposed to be a union, a partnership. Marriage counseling could help you both bring your real issues out into the open and improve the level of communication between you. If John refuses, go without him so you can learn assertiveness skills. If you continue to tolerate the status quo, well, your signature says it all.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Recently I began a wonderful relationship with "Arnie," the man of my dreams.

My problem is, he is hiding our relationship from certain members of his family. He told his youngest daughter about me, and she likes me so much she calls me Mom.

Arnie and his daughter tell me to remain silent when other family members call on the phone. If one of them comes to the door, they tell me to hide in another room.

Should I be concerned about this? Or should I let Arnie decide when it's time to tell the rest of his family?

STRESSED-OUT IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR STRESSED-OUT: Something is not kosher here. Could Arnie be ashamed of you? Could he still be married? By all means, you should be concerned. If you continue to tolerate this behavior, you'll have no one to blame but yourself.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a single mother with an 11-year-old daughter. We live in a small two-bedroom apartment.

My sister, her husband and their three kids moved in with us from out of state because they didn't like it where they were. When they arrived, my sister said they would only stay for two weeks. That was three months ago.

In addition, they are broke. My brother-in-law lost his job and is not looking for another one. I work but make just enough for my daughter and me.

They're costing me a fortune. My electricity bill has doubled, plus there is no privacy. Please help!

DAMSEL IN DISTRESS

DEAR DAMSEL: You've been a supportive sister. Now it's time to draw the line. Set a date for them to move out and stick to it. Enough is enough.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Helen Mirren moved by British Royal honors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Golden Globe nominee Helen Mirren said embarrassment drives her to tears, and she almost broke down recently at Buckingham Palace when she was given the title of dame.

"I felt myself going just as I was walking up," said Mirren, 58. "Prince Charles was waiting there. The throne is behind him and the band is playing. Everyone's families are sitting in the ballroom.

"It's amazing and I thought 'Oh, my God, this is so embarrassing. Stop (crying) right now. Do not go there. Control it.' I managed to stop myself."

Mirren, who lives in Los Angeles with her husband, director Taylor Hackford, has been in London for the past few months appearing in Eugene O'Neill's "Mourning Becomes Elektra."

Her stint in London kept her from the Los Angeles premiere of her latest film, "Calendar Girls," which opened nationally Dec. 19.

The movie was inspired by the true story of a group of women who produced a "nude" calendar to raise money for a local hospital. Her role has earned her a Golden Globe nomination for best actress in a comedy or musical.

Actress Helen Mirren poses for a photo after being honored as a dame from Britain's Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, during a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace, in London, in this Dec. 5 2003 file photo. AP



'Black Stallion' actor 'a normal guy'

PUEBLO, Colo. (AP)—At age 11, Kelly Reno costarred with Mickey Rooney - playing a freckle-faced boy who formed a special bond with a horse in "The Black Stallion."

At 37, he's a 6-foot-tall, mustachioed truck driver.

"I'm just a normal guy," says Reno, who has survived a serious traffic accident, gone through a divorce and given up ranching since he played Alec in the 1979 film.

Reno was living on a ranch in southern Colorado when he auditioned for the part. He reprised the role in the 1983 sequel "The Black Stallion Returns," and later appeared in a handful of other movie and TV roles.

In 1985, a traffic accident placed Reno in a wheelchair for eight months. He married the next year, using his movie earnings to start ranching, but then left ranching, partly for

financial reasons, and settled on driving a truck.

He and his wife had three children but the marriage fell apart in the mid-1990s.

Once in a while, he watches "The Black Stallion" on video.

"It's a lifetime of memories I'll never forget," he said. "If I never do another solitary, bloomin' thing ... I can always look back on my life and tell my kids and my grandkids, 'Well, look at what your pops and grandpops did.'"

'Dreamkeeper' explores Indian legends

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—A two-part miniseries that explores American Indian legends and is set in South Dakota will air Sunday and Monday on ABC.

The four-hour miniseries, titled "Dreamkeeper" (9 p.m. EST), features legendary stories of Indian tribes as told to a teenager by his grandfather. The story begins on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in

southwestern South Dakota. August Schellenberg stars as the grandfather, and Eddie Spears plays the grandson, Shane, who drives his grandfather to a tribal ceremony in New Mexico.

"I couldn't be happier with the production," said John Fusco, who wrote the screenplay. He had worked on the 1992 film "Thunderheart," which also used

South Dakota as a setting. Fusco, in a telephone interview with The Associated Press, said he was glad to work on another film that's rooted in South Dakota.

The Hallmark Entertainment miniseries was shot mostly in Alberta, Canada, Fusco said, but people from the Pine Ridge reservation traveled there to help work on the project.

PASSAGES

Veteran British actor Bates dies

LONDON (AP)—Alan Bates, who first gained fame on the London stage and went on to star in a string of successful 1960s movies including "Zorba the Greek," has died, his agent said Sunday. He was 69.

Bates died of cancer in a London hospital Saturday night, said his agent Rosalind Chatto.

Regarded as one of the most versatile actors of his generation, Bates forged his reputation on the British stage, notably playing the resentful working class

young man Jimmy Porter in a late 1950's production of John Osborne's "Look Back In Anger."

His first important film role was opposite Laurence Olivier in the 1960's "The Entertainer." In 1964, he played Basil in "Zorba the Greek" and two years later acted in "Georgy Girl" with Lynn Redgrave.

"I just thought that, apart from being a really first-rate actor, he was the most delightful person," said Glenda Jackson, his co-star in the celebrated 1969 movie "Women in Love."

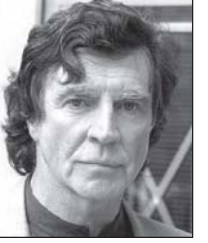
"As he grew older he became an even better actor with much greater depth and breadth," she told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Alan Arthur Bates was born in Derbyshire, central England. From an early age his passion was acting, and he won a scholarship to London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Bates' studies were interrupted by his two years' National Service in the Royal Air Force, but he made his professional theater debut in 1955 with the Midland Theater Company in central England.

His acclaimed 1956 performance in "Look Back In Anger" in London's West End was the start of a lifelong stage career that saw him perform in the works of modern playwrights such as Harold Pinter and Tom Stoppard, as well as those of Chekhov and Shakespeare.

But he was also an established screen actor and was nominated for a best actor Oscar award for his work in 1968's "The Fixer," in which he starred alongside Dirk Bogarde. The following year he played Rupert Birkin in "Women In Love," based on the D.H. Lawrence novel, starring alongside Jackson and Oliver Reed.



Bates

Pastimes

WONDERWORD®
By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PICKING UP STITCHES Solution: 10 letters

A	S	L	N	P	A	T	T	E	R	N	S	R	S	E
E	C	R	A	F	T	H	R	E	T	A	E	W	S	L
L	A	C	T	I	O	N	B	D	A	E	L	B	A	C
Y	R	D	E	B	R	I	R	S	H	R	U	G	P	O
G	V	E	B	S	F	E	M	I	N	I	N	E	X	M
R	E	Y	O	L	S	D	T	Y	P	E	C	P	R	F
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ⓕ	A	L	E	K	S	I	S	W	E	S	I	O	O	K
H	C	A	S	H	M	E	R	E	N	G	R	I	D	S

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Accessory, Action, Argyle, Cable, Cashmere, Cast, Color, Comfort, Craft, Double, Dress, Dyed, Feminine, Fiber, Fine, Gifts, Gloves, Grid, Guide, Hands, Hats, Hobby, Knit, Lace, Lacy, Link, Loops, Material, Method, Mittens, Needles, Pass, Patterns, Purl, Ribbed, Scarf, Scarves, Sews, Shape, Shrug, Silk, Slip, Socks, Sweater, Tape, Time, Toque, Trade, Type, Undo, Warm, Warp, Wash, Wear, Weave, Weft, Yarn. **Yesterday's Answer: Dismissed**
To order the new **WONDERWORD TREASURY 2: "Memorable Occasions"** send check or money order for \$10.95 plus \$2.25 postage and handling (\$14.20 total) to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6613.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS	DOWN
1 "Listen!"	1 Toper's interruption
5 Senate employee	2 Com-motion
9 Upper limit	3 Sleep phenom-enon
12 Thought	
13 Wading bird	
14 Sapporo sash	
15 Skilled	
17 Bumped into	
18 Guide	
19 Vacant	
21 Central	
24 Make better	
25 Object of worship (Var.)	
26 Pipes and stuff	
30 Muppet eagle	
31 Big name in retail	
32 Melody	
33 Undiversifying, in Hollywood	
35 Erstwhile Peruvian	
36 Stench	
37 Put on a show	

38 Doctrine	4 "Wel-come Back, Kotter" star	23 Part
40 German car	5 Pocket bread	24 Injured
42 Tree-ring tally	6 Sleeping	26 Brandy flavor
43 One of the gang	7 Bar staple	27 Part of UNLV
48 Skedad-dle	8 Regards highly	28 Pleasant
49 Maze goal	9 Submis-sive	29 Diploma holder
50 Vanished	10 Help a hood	31 Candle brackets
51 Favorite	11 Compas-sion	34 Conduc-tor de Waart
52 Mediocre	16 Wet wriggler	35 Cupcake enhance-ments
53 Fat	20 Fairy queen	37 Com-puter language
	21 Pugilistic weapon	38 Find fault
	22 Accept-able	39 Chills and fever
		40 Writer Kingsley
		41 Engaged with
		44 "Holly-wood Squares" loser
		45 Debtor's letters
		46 Insepa-rable
		47 Bottom line

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	A	K	S		P	A	C		S	T	O	W		
F	R	E	E	F	A	L	L		A	R	G	O		
F	A	N	T	A	S	I	A		L	O	R	E		
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R	O	D	E		F	A	N	C	I	E	R			
T	O	E		T	E	P	E	E		D	U	E		
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A	S	K	S		R	O	T		T	A	P	E		

Yesterday's answer 12-30

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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38	39					40	41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5951** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY
Tiger Woods, Tracey Ullman, Davy Jones, Michael Nesmith

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: If you want to make changes, this is the year. List all the things you've been dreaming about and make them come true. Keep in mind that life is simple; it's people who make it complicated. With a little creativity and structure, success should be yours. Your numbers are 3, 10, 13, 22, 31, 40

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Be proud of what you have done in the past and push forward, making new accomplishments your goal. Recognition will be yours for the time and effort you've put in this past year. ★★



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Take the advice offered by a good friend. It may be time to give up on something that isn't working so you can move forward. Talking about your situation will help. ★★



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Rely on your contacts to help you make the right choices today. There is a struggle ahead, but it will be worth every minute you spend working toward your goal. ★★



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You may want to avoid any interaction with people you deal with in a business sense. You aren't likely to get your way or make deals happen today. Someone may stand in your way. ★



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Get involved in whatever sounds enticing today. Social gatherings or getting together with people who have similar interests will lead to romance or a partnership. ★★★★★



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Take a final look at your important papers before the year comes to a close. You still have time to make changes. A health issue may pop up if you have been overdoing it. ★★



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Don't take any partnership you have for granted. If you can't agree on the direction you should pursue, talk now before things deteriorate any further. ★★



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You may get a chance to work alongside a great team. If you wish to make a professional change, this is also a great time. An interview today could give you a whole new outlook. ★★



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You should be able to entertain anyone you are dealing with today. Your charm and knowledge will win you points and get you the results you are looking for. ★★★★★



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You may discover that you have either spent too much or one of your financial deals has fallen through. Limitations are evident. Concentrate on the projects already in the works. ★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Travel or short jaunts that will enable you to further your interests will bring positive results. A new acquaintance will turn out to play an important role in your life. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Don't let memories depress you, especially if you lost someone who was dear to your heart. Only by reviewing the past can you move into the future. This is the time for new beginnings. ★★

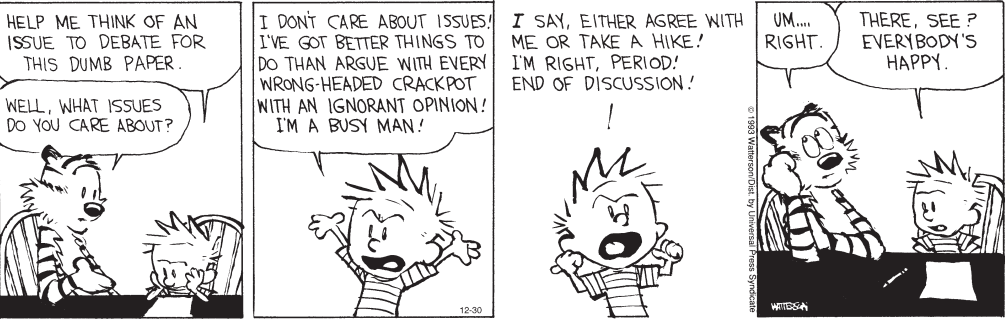
BIRTHDAY BABY: You are a bit of a daredevil, often taking chances. Most of the time you land on your feet, but every once in a while it doesn't work out the way you plan. Take caution.

(Need advice? Check out Eugenia on the Web at www.astroadvice.com or www.eugenialast.com.)

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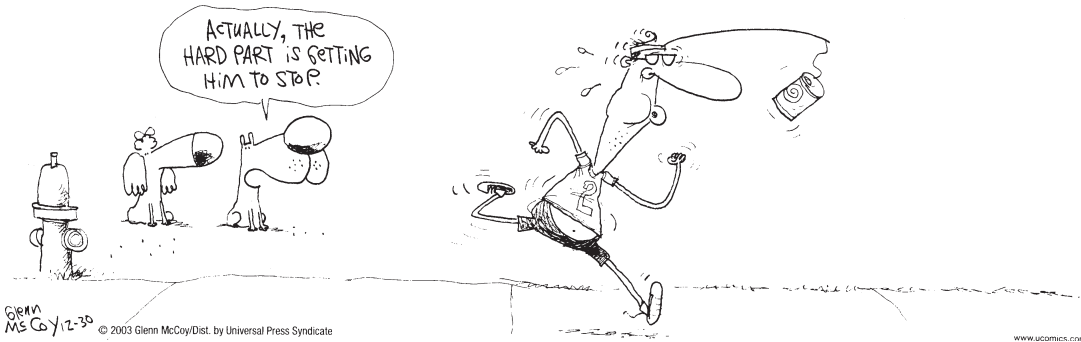
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Perry leads Memorial going into final

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

 **DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)** — Another brutal Saturday at Muirfield - in Ohio, not Scotland - was too much for Tiger Woods.

But not for Kenny Perry. Despite cold, whipping winds and the toughest weekend conditions at Muirfield Village in almost 20 years, Perry made only one bogey in a round of 2-under 70 and led Lee Janzen by two shots going into the final round. “That’s probably better than the 61 I shot last week,” Perry said. “The conditions were brutal. It was raw out there.”

Perry, coming off a victory at Colonial with a record score, again ended a solid round with a birdie on the 18th. His approach ran up the ridge, then trickled down the slope to 8 feet. He was at 13-under 203.

Woods, meanwhile, struggled with his swing and the gusts up to 30 mph made it look even worse. He hit a tee shot out of bounds for triple bogey and played the front nine in 42. He had to play the final four holes in 2 under to shoot 76.

It was his worst round ever at Memorial, where he is the only three-time winner, and at times it was reminiscent of his 81 in the third round of the British Open last year at Muirfield - with one exception.

“It’s a hell of a lot warmer here,” Woods said.

He wound up 11 strokes out of the lead - just like at Muirfield last summer - and no chance to catch the golf’s hottest players.

That’s not the case for a few others. Janzen, winless since his second U.S. Open title five years ago, holed two bunkers shots on the back nine - for birdie on No. 15 and for par on the No.



Kenny Perry, of Franklin, Ky., watches his tee shot on the par-5 fifth hole during the third round of the Memorial Tournament Saturday May 31, 2003 in Dublin, Ohio. Perry parred the hole.

17 - and had a 71 that left him at 11-under 202.

“I just wanted to hang in there,” Janzen said. “Regardless of what I shot, I just wanted to enjoy the day - kind of silly to enjoy a day like today - but enjoy that I play golf and I was near the lead.”

No one had a more enjoyable day than Jose Maria Olazabal. His bogey-free 66 was more than nine strokes better than the average score Saturday. That shot him up from a tie for 30th into a tie for third, along with Vijay Singh and Retief Goosen at 8-under 208.

Singh had a 72, while Goosen had three bogeys on the back nine for a 74.

Olazabal was the only player to break 70, and only 11 players broke par.

About two hours before the leaders teed off, the third round was halted for 46 minutes as a storm system passed. Left behind was the nastiest weather of

the year on the PGA Tour, with temperatures in the low 50s and gusts that spell trouble along the tree-lined fairways of Muirfield Village.

“It’s hard to judge where the wind is coming from,” Woods said. “The thing that’s hard is to get committed over a shot.”

That was evident on the first fairway. Woods held his pose and followed the flight of the ball until it landed 25 yards short of the green. He looked at the treetops in frustration, trying to figure out the swirling wind, then tossed his club at the bag.

It would get a lot worse, especially on No. 6 when Woods pulled his tee shot through the trees, into a backyard and out of bounds by about 2 feet. He walked all the way up to his ball before being told it was not in play, then had to return to the tee.

He wound up with a triple bogey

and made the turn in 42.

Woods couldn’t turn anywhere for sympathy. Eleven players shot 80 or worse, the highest number on the weekend ever at the Memorial.

John Daly drove the 343-yard 14th hole for the third straight day, and this time got a birdie. He also had two triple bogeys and a quadruple bogey for an 83.

“It’s a survival course more than anything out there,” Ernie Els said after his 70. “It’s pretty

punishing. It’s the hardest day we’ve had on the tour to date.”

That’s what made Olazabal’s round so brilliant.

The field average was 75.5, the highest for a weekend round since 1981 at Muirfield Village, and Olazabal made it look like he was at the Bob Hope Classic.

“It’s as good a round as I’ve seen in a long time,” said Jeff Sluman, his playing partner. “I’m not unhappy with my 72, but after looking at Ollie’s round, it felt like a million.”

Ohio tends to bring out the best in Olazabal. He shot a 61 up the road at Firestone in 1990 when he won the World Series of Golf, and took just as much pleasure out of this 66.

“Here, it’s a different story,” Olazabal said. “To shoot 66, I think it’s really close to that 61.”

It got him a lot closer to the lead,

San Diego Padres nip Diamondbacks, 8-7

 **SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Pinch-hitter Lou Merloni drove in the go-ahead run in San Diego’s two-run eighth inning with a sacrifice fly, lifting the Padres to an 8-7 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Saturday night.

Merloni’s sacrifice fly off Oscar Villarreal, Arizona’s third pitcher in the inning, gave San Diego just its sixth win in 33 games. The Padres went 5-24 in May, their worst month in team history.

Mark Loretta’s pinch-hit single of Mike Myers scored Gary Matthews Jr., who singled off Scott Service (0-1), tied it at 7-all.

Luis Gonzalez drove in four runs for Arizona and Alex Cintron went 3-for-4, including a two-run double in the top of the eighth inning. Cintron had two doubles and a triple.

Trailing 6-4 in the eighth inning, Arizona rebounded with back-to-back doubles by Matt Williams and Cintron off Jesse Orosco (1-1).

Matt Herges pitched the ninth for his second saves in three opportunities.

The Diamondbacks’ rally started off Luther Hackman, who hit Junior Spivey



San Diego Padres’ Rondell White is tagged out by Arizona Diamondbacks catcher Rod Barajas after he tried to score from third on a flyball to left in seventh inning of their game Saturday night, May 31, 2003, in San Diego. Umpire Phil Cuzzi makes the call.

leading off the eighth. Mark Grace’s one-out single knocked out Hackman.

Williams, pinch-hitting for Tony Womack, doubled into the left-field corner off Orosco, scoring Spivey and cutting the lead to 6-5. Cintron then ripped a double into the left-center field gap to put Arizona ahead.

Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the

first inning and threw out a runner at home plate.

Ryan Klesko homered and drove in two runs for the Padres, who scored five runs in the first after Arizona went up 2-0.

Klesko contributed an RBI single in the first, and hit his 10th home run of the season, a solo shot with two

outs, to put San Diego ahead 6-2 in the third inning.

Bennett’s two-run single capped the five-run first inning off Arizona starter Elmer Dessens when the Padres amassed a season-high seven hits. Xavier Nady and Matthews Jr. also drove in a run apiece.

Dessens settled down after the rough first inning. The right-hander allowed one run on four hits over the next four innings. Dessens finished by allowing six runs and 11 hits in five innings.

Gonzalez hit a two-run homer, his 11th, in the first inning off Adam Eaton, and cut the San Diego lead to 6-3 in the third with a run-scoring double that scored Cintron, who doubled.

After Eaton walked the first two batters in the fifth, Gonzalez added an RBI single. The Diamondbacks loaded the bases with a two-out walk to Lyle Overbay, but Eaton escaped further damage when he induced Spivey to ground out.

Gonzalez prevented the Padres from adding to their lead when he caught Nady’s fly ball in left-field foul territory and threw out Rondell White on a three-hop throw to catcher Rod Barajas.

MLBSTANDINGS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct	G
N.Y. Yankees	32	23	.582	-
Boston	31	23	.574	1½
Toronto	31	26	.544	2
Baltimore	27	27	.500	4½
Tampa Bay	21	33	.389	10½

Central Division

Minnesota	31	23	.574	-
Kansas City	27	26	.509	3½
Chi. White Sox	25	29	.463	6
Cleveland	21	32	.396	9½
Detroit	14	39	.264	16½

West Division

Seattle	36	18	.667	-
Oakland	31	23	.574	5
Anaheim	26	27	.491	9½
Texas	25	29	.463	11

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 4, N.Y. Yankees 2
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, ppd, rain
Oakland 7, Kansas City 6
Toronto 10, Boston 7
Seattle 5, Minnesota 2
Anaheim 6, Tampa Bay 1
Baltimore 7, Texas 1

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	37	18	.673	-
Montreal	33	22	.600	4
Philadelphia	29	25	.537	7½
Florida	26	31	.456	12
N.Y. Mets	25	30	.455	12

Central Division

Chi. Cubs	30	24	.556	-
Houston	29	27	.518	2
St. Louis	27	27	.500	3
Cincinnati	26	29	.473	4½
Pittsburgh	24	30	.444	6
Milwaukee	21	34	.382	9½

West Division

San Francisco	34	20	.630	-
Los Angeles	31	24	.564	3½
Colorado	27	29	.482	8
Arizona	25	30	.455	9½
San Diego	16	40	.286	19

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 4, Atlanta 2
Chicago Cubs 1, Houston 0, 16 innings
Pittsburgh 4, St. Louis 3
Florida 3, Cincinnati 2
Montreal at Philadelphia, ppd, rain
San Diego 8, Arizona 7
Los Angeles 3, Milwaukee 0
San Francisco 2, Colorado 1

Mighty Ducks top Devils 3-2 in OT

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Martin Brodeur showed he's not perfect, but the Anaheim Mighty Ducks still are in playoff overtime—and that's why they're still alive in the Stanley Cup finals.

Ruslan Salei scored off Adam Oates' faceoff win at 6:59 into overtime and the Mighty Ducks, taking advantage of one of the biggest misplays of Brodeur's career, beat the New Jersey Devils 3-2 in Game 3 Saturday night.

Oates fed the puck off the faceoff to Salei at the top of the slot, and Brodeur barely reacted to his one-timer as the Mighty Ducks improved to 6-0 in playoff overtimes. The Devils are 2-2.

It was essentially a must-win game for the Ducks, who played with the desperation expected of a team that trailed 2-0 in the series and almost certainly would have had no chance to raise the cup had it lost.

Ducks coach Mike Babcock joked that Salei is one of his hardest shooters, if not the most accurate.

"He can really shoot the puck. We always tell him shoot the puck on net once in a while," Babcock said. "He bangs the puck off the glass with the best of them."

Salei said the faceoff win was so clean, "You've got to shoot. So far, it's the biggest goal I've ever scored. We had to win this game. We had to get some momentum going. Now maybe it will go seven games, or six."



AP
New Jersey Devils' Scott Gomez, left, is congratulated by teammate Patrik Elias following his third period goal against the Anaheim Mighty Ducks in Game 3 of the Stanley Cup Finals in Anaheim, Calif., Saturday, May 31, 2003. Elias had an assist on the play.

Salei's goal was his second of the playoffs.

Game 4 will be Monday night, when the Devils can either take a commanding 3-1 lead or the Mighty Ducks will tie a series they seemed out of following two dominating Devils wins in New Jersey.

Overtime playoff wins have largely been responsible for Anaheim's remarkable playoff run, which began with three consecutive series-opening overtime victories.

Goalie Jean-Sebastien Giguere has been unbeatable in overtime, with an NHL-record overtime scoreless streak of 166 minutes, 4 seconds. He broke Patrick Roy's record of 162:56 early in the overtime.

Giguere turned aside 29 of 31 shots in by far his best game of the finals.

The Devils trailed 2-1 in the second after Brodeur lost his stick and couldn't defend Sandis Ozolinsh's seemingly harmless shot as it trickled in from the blue line.

"It happens to the best of the goaltenders," Devils coach Pat Burns said. "You don't think Patrick Roy ever made a play like that? It's not the end of the world. You're going to fault the goaltender for that? I'm not."

Babcock said the misplay gave the Ducks a huge lift.

"I thought that was the break we needed," he said.

But the Devils tied it at 2 when Scott Gomez deflected Grant Marshall's wrist from above the right circle past Giguere at 9:11 of the third. Gomez has two goals in the finals after

scoring only once in 16 games.

That might have won it had Brodeur not made a grievous mistake on a play that couldn't have been more routine.

Only 45 seconds after the Devils' Patrik Elias tied it at 1, Giguere fed the puck up ice to Ozolinsh who, draped by two Devils, pushed it toward the net.

Brodeur, positioned at the left of the crease, began to scramble over to play the puck, only to drop his stick. With Brodeur unable to defend, the puck trickled into the side of the net as the goalie dropped to his knees, raising his hand to his head in disbelief.

It was a perfectly awful play by the goalie who was near perfect for the first seven periods of the series.

"Obviously, they got breaks and that's what it's all about. They got them and we didn't get them," Burns said. "We had a great chance tonight (to go up 3-0). But it came down to errors and mistakes, like every hockey game does."

The maddening misplay at 14:47 of the second came slightly more than 11 minutes after Ozolinsh set up Anaheim's first goal of the series, by the infrequently used Marc Chouinard. That goal at 3:39 of the second ended Brodeur's scoreless streak of 143 minutes, 39 seconds, the second-longest to start the finals.

Ozolinsh shot the puck toward the net from along the boards, and it deflected off Chouinard's stick and past Brodeur to the glove side. The Devils scored the first goal in each of the first two games on their home ice, and the Ducks never challenged after that in either game.

Larry Brown to coach Pistons, AP learns

By LARRY LAGE
AP SPORTS WRITER



AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)— Rick Carlisle sat elbow-to-elbow with the man who had just fired him, Joe Dumars. In a bizarre scene, talk turned to Larry Brown, who will become Detroit's next coach.

"If you think he's going to bring in a stiff behind me, you're nuts," Carlisle said Saturday. "He's going to bring in a big-time guy, and if he can do that he will have done his job."

Carlisle was fired with one year and \$2 million left on his contract despite winning two straight division titles, 100 regular-season games, a Coach of the Year award and leading the Pistons to the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 1991.

He will be replaced by Brown, who has already reached agreement with the Pistons on a long-term deal, according to a source within the league with knowledge of the discussions between the Pistons and Brown. The source spoke to The Associated Press on condition of

anonymity, saying the hiring will become official on Monday.

Saturday's news conference was strange - Carlisle poking fun at himself during an opening statement, then initiating jokes and defending the decision when Dumars was pressed to explain the dismissal.

"The guy at the gate almost wouldn't let me in to my own firing," Carlisle said.

When Dumars said, "This is not a fun day at all," Carlisle quipped: "It's all right. You can have fun with it."

Brown resigned as coach of the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday after six seasons. The Sixers released him from a contractual clause that prohibited him from coaching another NBA team if he left Philadelphia prematurely.

Counting Detroit, there are eight NBA coaching vacancies.

When asked about Brown, Dumars said, "We'll be talking to him," adding that he has heard Brown's name linked to openings in Houston, Cleveland and Washington.

"This is not about Larry Brown, this is about Rick Carlisle," Dumars said.

Brown did not return two messages left by The AP at his home.

Philadelphia captain Eric

Snow understands why the Pistons are going after his former coach.

"With Rick Carlisle gone, it would be great for Detroit's organization if it was fortunate enough to get Larry Brown," Snow said. "He's a Hall of Famer who is a great coach and a great teacher that would make every one of their players better, and that would make the Pistons even better."

Carlisle, in his first head coaching job, helped turn Detroit from a lottery team into the top-seeded squad in the East this season. He was honored as NBA Coach of the Year for the 2001-02 season.

He led the Pistons to a 100-64 regular-season record and a 12-15 postseason mark over two years.

The Pistons' season ended May 24 when they were swept by New Jersey in the conference finals. Carlisle's coaching was publicly criticized during the first round when Detroit fell behind 3-1 against Orlando. But he turned to little-used Tayshaun Price and Mehmet Okur to generate some offense and help the Pistons advance.

"You can get into a conversation about what may or not be fair, or you can be excited about being at the peak of your career," Carlisle said. "I'll look

back and remember the good things and the things that were accomplished by a group that no one thought had a chance."

Carlisle was hired as Detroit's coach on May 25, 2001, after the team fired George Irvine following a 32-50 season. There was believed to be tension between Dumars and Carlisle, but both denied that was true Saturday.

Carlisle said he was unsure if he would pursue a coaching job right away or take a year off to be a television analyst.

"There was never any talk of an extension, there was none from me to Joe, or from them to me. I didn't feel that one was owed to me," Carlisle said. "I was ready to honor the last year of my contract and be judged after three years. That would've been fine."

Brown, 62, had two years left in his contract that paid him \$6 million per season in Philadelphia.

He also coached Denver (five years), Indiana (four years), San Antonio (3 1/2 years), New Jersey (two years), Carolina of the ABA (two years) and the Clippers (18 months).

Brown's tenure with the Sixers was his longest in his 31-year coaching career. He led the Sixers to the playoffs for five straight seasons, including the 2001 NBA Finals, and will coach



AP
Philadelphia 76ers head coach Larry Brown directs his team in the first quarter in this April 15, 2003 photo, in Chicago against the Chicago Bulls. The Detroit Pistons fired coach Rick Carlisle and will hire Larry Brown, a source within the league said Saturday, May 31, 2003.

the U.S. men's national team this summer at an Olympic qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico.

He has a 879-685 record in the NBA, and 1,285-853 overall, including ABA and college. Brown won an NCAA championship with Kansas in 1988, and became the first coach to take six NBA teams to the playoffs when the 76ers made it in 1999.

Brown would inherit a

Pistons team that has the No. 2 pick in the June 26 draft. Detroit will likely select a scorer - Darko Milicic of Serbia or Syracuse's Carmelo Anthony - to complement a young nucleus of Richard Hamilton, Chauncey Billups, Ben Wallace and rookies Okur and Prince.

Brown's brother, Herb, was head coach of the Pistons from 1975-76 through 1977-78.





Mobil blasts past PDI
Host Mobil Oil was armed and dangerous last Thursday as they gunned down Pacific Development Inc, 103-68, in the second day of competition in the Mobil Oil Invitational Basketball Tournament.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Arenas leads Warriors past Jazz, 108-95

Gilbert Arenas scored 27 points and the Golden State Warriors beat the Utah Jazz 108-95 Saturday night to win for the fifth time in six games.

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